

Minnesota-North Dakota Chapter

7900 West 78th Street, Suite 100
Minneapolis, MN 55439

April 29, 2020

p 952.830.0512

f 952.830.0513

RE: Support for the A-2 Amendment to HF 3104/HF 3074

REGIONAL OFFICES

Minnesota

Duluth
Fergus Falls
Rochester
St. Cloud
St. Paul

North Dakota

Bismarck
Fargo
Grand Forks
Maddock
Minot

Dear Chair Moran and Chair Schultz,

Thank you to the members of the Minnesota House of Representatives for the work you are doing to help Minnesota during these difficult and unprecedented times.

The Alzheimer's Association of Minnesota-North Dakota supports the A-2 amendment to HF 3104, identical to Rep. Lippert's HF 3074, and thanks you for your efforts to assist family caregivers of older vulnerable Minnesotans.

There are an estimated 99,000 Minnesotans living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia in Minnesota. 257,000 Minnesotans are providing 293 million hours of unpaid care, valued at over \$3.8 billion dollars. And these numbers – both people living with the disease and caregivers – are expected to increase in the coming years.

Caring for someone with Alzheimer's can be very intimate and very intrusive. And needs can change as the disease progresses. Almost 78% manage household care, including cleaning and cooking and nearly 48% manage personal care, like feeding or bathing. Caregivers also manage behavioral symptoms of the disease, like aggressive behavior, wandering, agitation, and anxiety. They often provide overall management of getting through the day.

The A-2 Amendment makes a small policy change to an existing grant program to ensure grants are distributed to caregivers of vulnerable older Minnesotans, including those living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia. By working with the Area Agencies on Aging, the Board on Aging will be able to dispense already grants previously appropriated in the 2017 special session Health and Human Services Omnibus Budget bill to family caregivers more directly, effectively, and efficiently because they have established relationships with county officials that work with this growing population.

Family caregivers are essential to ensuring older Minnesotans get the support and care they need to remain independent and connected with their own community. We look forward to working with the Minnesota Legislature to support family caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia and all older Minnesotans in future legislative sessions.

With deep appreciation,



Josh Ney
Manager of State Affairs
Alzheimer's Association, Minnesota-North Dakota Chapter
jdney@alz.org | 651-789-5863