

Minnesota-North Dakota Chapter

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March 21, 2023

Dear Members of the Human Services Finance Committee:

The Alzheimer's Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting people living with Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia. We are writing today to share our support for HF 1851, where we have partnered with AARP, Family Services Rochester, and Rep. Hicks. This important legislation updates the statute governing the Live Well at Home Grant Program and brings a much-needed funding increase for community-based elder care services.

At the Alzheimer's Association we are committed to supporting people with dementia to live where they want with the people they love. That mission starts by equipping unpaid caregivers with the resources they need to continue the demanding work of caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. In 2021, 171,000 Minnesota dementia caregivers provided 156 million hours of unpaid care valued at \$3.4 billion dollars. These numbers don't show up in a budget spreadsheet but they keep our struggling elder care system afloat.

The Live Well at Home Grant program is a proven resource to help seniors and people with dementia age in place, not in a more expensive residential program. The Live Well at Home Grant program funds providers across the state to expand access to essential services like respite care, chore services and other supports with the activities of daily living, and chronic condition management. Thank you to Rep. Hicks and the Human Services Policy Committee for supporting this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Sam Smith
State Affairs Manager
Alzheimer's Association