

MAIN OFFICE

800.272.3900
p 952.830.0512
f 952.830.0513
7900 W. 78th St., Ste. 100
Minneapolis, MN 55439

March 2, 2015

Rep. Cheryl Youakim
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 225
St. Paul MN 55155

REGIONAL OFFICES

MINNESOTA

Duluth
Fergus Falls
Rochester
St. Cloud

NORTH DAKOTA

Bismarck
Dickinson
Fargo
Grand Forks
Jamestown
Minot

Dear Representative Youakim:

On behalf of the 100,000 Minnesotans with Alzheimer's disease and their 245,000 caregivers, I would like to express my appreciation for your effort to introduce and lead forward HF 805 establishing a working group to determine if the state of Minnesota should create a Silver Alert system.

The reality is that six out of ten people with Alzheimer's will wander at some point during the disease process. This behavior can be dangerous and even life threatening. A person with Alzheimer's or dementia may be unable to follow safety precautions and may wander any time of the day or night.

Caregivers who may already be overwhelmed must spend valuable time and precious energy worrying about their loved one, many of whom wander repeatedly. Family members never know when an episode of wandering will happen, leaving them feeling a need to be attentive at all hours of the day.

The Alzheimer's Association looks forward to working in collaboration with the Department of Public Safety, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the Traumatic Brain Injury Organization and others to assess current notification systems to determine the most successful methods for locating missing persons.

Thank you for your leadership on this very important issue.

Sincerely,



Susan J. Spalding, CEO
Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota
7900 West 78th Street
Minneapolis MN 55439