

May 3, 2021

Minnesota-North Dakota Chapter

7900 West 78th Street, Suite 100

Minneapolis, MN 55439

p 952.830.0512

f 952.830.0513

REGIONAL OFFICES

Minnesota

Duluth

Fergus Falls

Rochester

St. Cloud

St. Paul

North Dakota

Bismarck

Fargo

Grand Forks

Maddock

Minot

RE: Conference Committee on SF 970, Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia-Related Provisions

Dear Chairs Limmer and Mariani and Members of the Conference Committee on SF 970,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the omnibus public safety budget, SF 970.

The Alzheimer's Association strongly supports the inclusion of \$200,000 to expand Minnesota's Crime Alert Network System to include a missing person with dementia category. The expansion of this statewide communications network under the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension will enable law enforcement agencies to quickly alert the public about a person with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. We encourage its inclusion in the final public safety budget.

This provision is found in both the Senate language (SF 970, 3rd Engrossment, Art. 1, Sec. 11, Subd. 3(h) at lines 7.18-7.23) and the House language (SF 970, First Unofficial Engrossment, Art. 2, Sec. 3, Subd. 3(l) at lines 12.14-12.20). See Article 1, page R-12 of the Side-By-Side. Note there is a small difference in the title between the House and Senate, but the language is otherwise identical. We do not have a preference for either title version.

Six out of 10 individuals with dementia will wander at some point, and many will wander repeatedly. We know that if individuals with dementia are not found within 24 hours, up to fifty percent suffer serious injury or death. A missing person with Alzheimer's isn't like a missing adult without cognitive impairment. They may not know they need help; they might not be able to explain that they are lost; and they may not recognize their own body is telling them to stop to eat or use the bathroom.

We appreciate that both the House and Senate included this in their respective budgets because the number of Minnesotans living with dementia continues to increase. We estimate there are 99,000 Minnesotans living with the disease and expect that number to reach 120,000 by the year 2025. Almost two-thirds of those living with Alzheimer's are women. Older Black or African Americans are two-times more likely and Older Hispanic or Latinx Americans are one and one-half times more likely to have Alzheimer's or other dementia than older whites.

The Alzheimer's Association also encourages the adoption of a House-only provision, SF 970, First Unofficial Engrossment, Article 10, Section 16 - at lines 128.16-128.30, which adds dementia and Alzheimer's disease and other dementia to existing crisis intervention and mental illness training requirements. See Article 10, Page 12 of the Side-By-Side. Specifically, this language requires the Minnesota Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Board to work with stakeholders to develop a list of approved training courses and personnel that focus on training law enforcement on issues associated with Minnesotans with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia.

This language establishes important standards that the training course must include to receive approval by the POST Board, including: trainers must have at least two years of direct care of a person with Alzheimer's disease or dementia; and, the training course has to cover techniques for responding to and issues associated with persons with Alzheimer's disease and dementia, including wandering, driving, abuse, and neglect.

First responders frequently interact with individuals who have Alzheimer's and other dementias in a variety of settings - and this will only increase as the number of Minnesotans with dementia continues to grow. They are generally among the first to be contacted regarding emergencies, abuse and exploitation.

Many first responders receive little or no formal training to prepare them for the unique physical, behavioral, and communication challenges related to people with dementia.

Asking the POST Board to develop a list of training courses that meet these standards will provide law enforcement with a resource to recognize individuals with cognitive impairment, to understand effective intervention in cases involving individuals who are cognitively impaired, and the ability to secure the safety of missing, abused, or exploited individuals with dementia.

A standard of response is an important step to ensuring different law enforcement agencies coordinate with each other and act with the same urgency when a person with dementia goes missing or is in crisis.

We look forward to working with the Minnesota Senate and Minnesota House of Representatives to ensure that Minnesotans living with Alzheimer's are safe in their communities and that the first responders who are called when they need help have the resources needed to help this growing population, especially when they are in crisis.

Again, the Alzheimer's Association supports language in both the Senate and the House omnibus public safety bills to establish an Alzheimer's and dementia missing persons alert category. We also support the House provision that adds Alzheimer's and dementia to current crisis intervention training requirements. We strongly encourage these provisions remain in the final omnibus public safety bill, SF 970.

Thank you for supporting Minnesotans with dementia, their families, and their caregivers.

With deep appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Ney', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

Encl: Minnesota 2021 Facts and Figures



MINNESOTA

ALZHEIMER'S STATISTICS



PREVALENCE

65+ NUMBER OF PEOPLE AGED 65 AND OLDER WITH ALZHEIMER'S

Year	TOTAL	ESTIMATED % CHANGE
2020	99,000	21.2%
2025	120,000	



MORTALITY



DEMENTIA DEATHS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

644 more deaths than expected from dementia in 2020 **11.6%** higher than average

OF DEATHS FROM ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE (2019)

2,552

4th leading cause of death



HOSPICE (2017)

5,399

of people in hospice with a primary diagnosis of dementia

21%

% in hospice with a primary diagnosis of dementia



HOSPITALS (2018)

1,467

of emergency department visits per 1,000 people with dementia

21.6%

dementia patient hospital readmission rate



MEDICAID

\$ 905 MILLION

Medicaid costs of caring for people with Alzheimer's (2020)

20.1%

projected change in costs from 2020 to 2025



MEDICARE

\$24,562

per capita Medicare spending on people with dementia (in 2020 dollars)



CAREGIVING (2020)

170,000

Number of Caregivers

55.3%

% of caregivers with chronic health conditions

155,000,000

Total Hours of Unpaid Care

29.9%

% of caregivers with depression

\$3,326,000,000

Total Value of Unpaid Care

14.4%

% of caregivers in poor physical health

More than **6 million Americans** are living with Alzheimer's. The cost of caring for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias is estimated to total **\$355 billion** in 2021, increasing to more than **\$1.1 trillion** (in today's dollars) by mid-century. Dementia caregivers today are providing **20% more care** than in 2009.



AIM

ALZHEIMER'S IMPACT MOVEMENT™

alzheimer's association®

For more information, view the **2021 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures** report at alz.org/facts.

© 2021 Alzheimer's Association® All Rights Reserved. Alzheimer's Association is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization.