

2011 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

1. The Alzheimer's Association opposes the full-scale suspension of implementation of Initiative 1029.

- More than 70 percent of the people in Washington State voted for Initiative 1029 to improve training for home care workers.
- I-1029 ensures that home care workers have the adequate training to provide safe and quality care.
- Suspension does not allow workers to build a career pathway which addresses the healthcare workforce shortages that are already threatening the health and long-term care delivery system.

2. Washington State Alzheimer's Disease Plan

Pass legislation to establish a time-limited commission comprised of representatives from the various sectors touched by the Alzheimer epidemic, including but not limited to a public health representative, physicians and other care practitioners, family and professional care givers, and long-term care providers. Currently, 46 states are involved in developing their own state government Alzheimer's disease plans.

The charge of the task force is to:

- Assess the current and future impact of Alzheimer's disease on residents of Washington.
- Examine the existing industries, services and resources addressing the needs of persons with Alzheimer's, their families, and caregivers.
- Establish evidence-based care recommendations for family members of persons with dementia to aid in the management of this chronic condition, prevent unnecessary hospitalizations, and administer end-of-life care in a respectful and dignified manner.
- Create a comprehensive strategy to mobilize a state response to this public health crisis by looking at the disease across the full continuum, including diagnosis, disease progression, care giving considerations, disease management, and end of life issues.
- Require all long-term care facilities to meet a set of standards based upon the most current quality practice recommendations in dementia care.