

Alzheimer's is a growing public health crisis and state governments must take bold action. Effectively implementing and updating State Alzheimer's Plans and supporting other policies will reduce the long-term impact of the disease on state budgets, and improve the lives of individuals living with dementia and their family caregivers.

Expand Access to Critical Respite Grant Funding for Caregivers

1

**SB414-FN-A:
An act relative to
respite care services
for persons caring
for individuals with
Alzheimer's disease
and related disorders,
and making an
appropriation
therefor.**

In New Hampshire, there are an estimated 26,000 individuals living with Alzheimer's or other dementia and an estimated 57,000 caregivers providing care to them. We know that providing care to a loved one living with Alzheimer's or dementia can be extremely challenging. To help reduce the burden on caregivers, New Hampshire has a respite grant which, when received, can assist a caregiver in acquiring alternative care for their loved one so that they can take a break while knowing that their loved one is safely cared for. However, current law states that in order to access the respite grant, you must have Alzheimer's or other dementia thus preventing access for those without a formal diagnosis. We are urging legislators to change the definition of Alzheimer's so that those who are symptomatic of the disease, but may not have a formal diagnosis, can also be eligible for this critical respite grant funding.

Help Protect Vulnerable Adults from Financial Exploitation

2

**SB385-FN:
An act relative
to financial
exploitation of
vulnerable adults.**

In 2020, older adults filed 334,411 fraud reports with reported losses of more than \$600 million in the United States. Because the vast majority of frauds are not reported, these numbers include only a fraction of older adults harmed by fraud. As the number of Americans struggling with Alzheimer's disease and dementia continues to grow, unfortunately, so does the potential for exploitation, physical or emotional abuse, and neglect. The Alzheimer's Association is calling on legislators to support forthcoming legislation that would help to ensure that those living with cognitive impairment in New Hampshire are safe from financial abuse by allowing banks and other financial institutions the ability to place holds on the distribution of funds if they suspect financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult.

3

**SB412-FN-A:
An act making an
appropriation to the
department of health
and human services
for nursing home
reimbursement rates.**

Improve Reimbursement Rates to Ensure Quality of Care in Nursing Facilities

New Hampshire has historically had one of the lowest Medicaid reimbursement rates in the country. This is an issue because reimbursement rates often directly impact an individual's access to residential care settings, quality care, and the wages of those working in these facilities. The Alzheimer's Association urges the legislature to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates to ensure that those living with Alzheimer's or dementia who need residential care will have access to quality care and the facility will be reimbursed in a way that reflects the higher cost of Alzheimer's and dementia care.

Alzheimer's disease is one of the most critical public health issues in America.

The number of Americans living with Alzheimer's is growing — and growing fast. While Alzheimer's places a huge burden on the health care system, with annual costs exceeding a quarter of a trillion dollars, the cost is far more than financial. This is why we unrelentingly advocate for the rights of the Alzheimer's and dementia community, as well as critical research funding. We advocate to change the trajectory of this disease.

For more information regarding the Alzheimer's Association's Legislative Priorities for the MA/NH Chapter please contact MacKenzie Nicholson, Public Policy Manager at menicholson@alz.org.