

Alzheimer's Association

Illinois Public Policy Priorities

Move the State's Alzheimer's Disease Plan Forward Through Advocacy

Lead the development of the final comprehensive Statewide Alzheimer's Disease Plan envisioned in SJR 43 through advocacy, ultimately leading to legislative or regulatory changes.

Expand Home and Community Care Options

Participate in the development of programs and grants through state, federal and private entities to expand availability and accessibility of home and community based care options that are culturally and geographically appropriate.

Expand Training for Those Interacting with Persons with Dementia

Develop, promote and provide effective, appropriate and ongoing education for all persons with direct or indirect contact with -- or provide services -- that impact the quality of life for persons with dementia.

Protect Medicaid and Medicare

Protect the quality of life for persons with dementia on Medicaid and Medicare that recognizes consumer choice for care in the most effective setting. Ensure that these funds follow the person with dementia as they choose among services throughout the continuum of care.

Ensure Quality Care in All Settings

Monitor and evaluate the impact of long-term care regulations, reimbursement, consumer standards and other compliance activities that impact the lives of persons with dementia and their families in all care settings, formal and informal.

Facts About Alzheimer's Disease:

From the Alzheimer's Association 2008 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures Report

- Nearly 10 million of the 78 million U.S. baby boomers who are alive today can expect to develop Alzheimer's disease.
- In 2008, an estimated 5.2 million Americans of all ages have Alzheimer's disease, including 5 million persons age 65 and older and between 200,000-500,000 persons under age 65 with early-onset Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.
- By 2050 the number of persons with Alzheimer's disease could range from 11 million to 16 million.
- Increasing age is the greatest risk factor for Alzheimer's disease— 1 in 8 people age 65 and over and nearly half over age 85 have Alzheimer's.
- Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S.; the fifth leading cause of death for those age 65 and over.
- Average survival for persons with Alzheimer's disease is 4-6 years after diagnosis, but can be as long as 20 years from the first symptoms.
- Almost 10 million Americans are caring for someone with Alzheimer's or another dementia without pay.
- Every 71 seconds, someone in America develops Alzheimer's disease. By mid-century, someone will develop Alzheimer's disease every 33 seconds.
- 70% of people with Alzheimer's and other dementias live at home.
- 69% of nursing home residents have some degree of cognitive impairment; 46.4% have a diagnosis of Alzheimer's or another dementia in their medical records.
- National direct and indirect costs of Alzheimer's and other dementias amount to more than \$148 billion annually.
- Medical costs of persons with Alzheimer's and other dementias are much higher than those without when one or more other chronic conditions are present.
- In 2005, Medicare spent \$91 billion on beneficiaries with Alzheimer's and other dementias. Expenditures are predicted to increase to \$160 billion by 2015.
- In 2007, unpaid caregivers of people with Alzheimer's and other dementias were estimated to provide 8.4 billion hours of care valued at \$89 billion.
- Alzheimer's disease costs American businesses \$61 billion a year.
- 1 in 10 Americans say they have a family member with Alzheimer's disease; 1 in 3 know someone with the disease.

The Alzheimer's Association Illinois Chapter Network

We serve the entire state of Illinois. The Illinois Chapter Network, made up of volunteers, is the leading advocate for legislation and public policy at the state level on behalf of more than half a million residents-210,000 people with Alzheimer's, including family members and caregivers.

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Alzheimer's Association Mission Statement

To eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.