

MISSOURI COALITION OF ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS

MISSOURI ALZHEIMER'S STATE PLAN

By the middle of this century, more than 14 million Americans are expected to have Alzheimer's disease. Five million have the disease now. 110,000 are Missourians. States have developed plans for diseases and disasters that have yet to afflict anyone. However, few have working state plans to deal with the future epidemic of Alzheimer's.

From 1986 to 1989, Missouri convened a blue ribbon task force on Alzheimer's disease. A number of initiatives resulted from their work, including passage of legislation establishing the Alzheimer's Disease Research Program and community-based respite programs through Alzheimer's Service Grants.

Although a great deal of legislation has been passed since 1989, there has not been an effort by the state to look comprehensively at programs and services for people with dementia and their caregivers. Furthermore, we have learned 95% of what we know about Alzheimer's in only the last 15 years. It is time for Missouri to develop an Alzheimer's State Plan.

HB272 calls for the establishment of an *Alzheimer's Disease State Plan Task Force* that would help Missouri confront the challenges of Alzheimer's by:

- ✓ Assessing the current and future impact of Alzheimer's disease
- ✓ Examining existing services and resources for people with dementia, their families, and caregivers
- ✓ Developing recommendations to respond to the escalating public health situation regarding Alzheimer's

HB272 calls for the task force to look collectively at a number of issues including:

- ✓ Early stage and early onset Alzheimer's as well as Alzheimer's as a result of Down Syndrome
- ✓ Quality and coverage of long-term care services across the care continuum
- ✓ Public safety concerns
- ✓ Alzheimer research

HB272 requires that the task force submit an Alzheimer's State Plan to the General Assembly and Governor by November 15, 2010 that will outline findings and delineate date specific recommendations. The task force will continue to meet at the request of the chair to evaluate the implementation and impact of their recommendations.

2009 POLICY RECOMMENDATION

The Missouri Coalition of Alzheimer's Association Chapters urges legislative support for **HB272** that calls for the creation of a *Missouri Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force* to confront the Alzheimer's epidemic.