



February 4, 2013

Senator Johnny Ellis
Alaska State Capitol, Room 7
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Ellis:

The Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska fully supports Senate Bill 36 that would put in place a vulnerable adult response and notification plan. The response plan could save the lives of some of Alaska's vulnerable adults.

SB36 is of particular importance for our population living with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia (ARD). Members of this group face an exceptionally high risk of becoming lost due to the memory and cognitive impairments caused by the disease. Sixty percent (60%) of those with Alzheimer's will wander. Because of the confusion caused by the disease, many of them will do so without adequate protection from the weather. In winter particularly this can be deadly. Nationwide, only one third of this population survive if not found within twenty four (24) hours. In Alaska, the risk of injury and death is further increased by the extreme weather and size of the state.

Senate Bill 36 would ensure the public is quickly informed of missing vulnerable adults and can assist in the search. Alaskans pride themselves on helping their neighbors in times of need, and this alert system would allow neighbors to do so while significantly raising the chance of the lost individual to return home safely and quickly. This bill, at no cost to the state, could save lives.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our vulnerable adult population.

Sincerely,

Dulce Nobre
Executive Director

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