
From: Bill McClintock <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 11:23 AM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Support Dementia Awareness Bill

Dear Representative Merrick,

I strongly support Speaker Stutes' HB 308. This legislation directs the Department of Health and Social Services to promote information regarding the importance of a timely diagnosis and the signs and symptoms of different types of dementia. Please vote in support of the dementia public awareness bill if you come across it in committee or on the chamber floor.

1 in 5 baby boomers can expect to develop dementia (1). Of those baby boomers who reach the age of 80, one in every two will develop Alzheimer's (2). This is why the Alzheimer's Association has classified baby boomers as the Alzheimer's Generation. Alaska Natives have the highest likelihood of any race to develop dementia, as 35% of Alaska Native peoples can expect to develop dementia in their lifetime (3). A dementia public awareness campaign is instrumental to preparing Alaskans for the approaching dementia tsunami.

Early diagnosis of dementia allows patients to access treatments and research trials that may slow the progression of the disease so Alaskans can contribute to our communities longer. The earlier Alaskans recognize the signs of dementia, the more action they can take to slow the progression of the disease.

1) Alzheimer's Association. <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/ElderCare/story?id=4472830&page=1>

2) Alzheimer's Association. https://act.alz.org/site/DocServer/ALZ_BoomersReport.pdf?docID=521

3) Mayeda, E. R., Glymour, M. M., Quesenberry, C. P., & Whitmer, R. A. (2016, March). Inequalities in dementia incidence between six racial and ethnic groups over 14 years. *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association*, 12(3), 216-224. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jalz.2015.12.007>

Together we can save Alaskan lives,
Bill McClintock
[REDACTED]



Sterling Harders | President
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Andrew Beane | Vice President
Shaine Truscott | Vice President
Tangie Webb | Vice President

March 21, 2022.

**House Finance Committee
Alaska Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801**

RE: HB 308 Support

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members:

SEIU 775 is writing to support HB 308/SB 216 – Dementia Awareness. Our union represents more than 50,000 caregivers who provide in-home care to seniors and people with disabilities in Washington and Montana. Over the last year, we've spent significant time with caregivers in Alaska learning about their experiences providing personal care services to clients receiving services through Medicaid. During this time, we've heard from hundreds that are trying to help their clients experiencing Dementia access the care they need: In Alaska, 10% of clients receiving Medicaid personal care services and 20% of those receiving these services through Community First Choice, have a diagnosis of dementia.¹ We believe HB 308/SB 216 will bring much-needed visibility into the symptoms, treatment, and available supports for Alaskans with dementia and their caregivers in the state.

Raising awareness of Dementia symptoms and support options will allow Alaskans to better plan for their futures, enabling them, caregivers, and communities all over the state to advocate for the services and supports they need. Publicizing the treatment options for Dementia will help keep communities intact and connect Alaskans experiencing Dementia with adequate services, including trained, paid caregivers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Beane", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Andrew Beane
Vice-President
SEIU 775**

¹ "A Call for Alaska's 10-Year Map to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia." Alaska Mental Health Trust, January 2021.
<https://alaskamentalhealthtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/A-Call-To-Action-Alzheimers-Disease-Related-Dementia-10-Year-Map.pdf>

**SEIU 775
215 Columbia Street | Seattle, WA 98104**

Member Resource Center 1.866.371.3200 | www.seiu775.org

Our mission is to unite the strength of all working people and our families, to improve our lives and lead the way to a more just and humane world.