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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".

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>

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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.