

SENATE BILL NO. 216

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATORS COSTELLO, Gray-Jackson, Hughes, Kawasaki, Micciche, Wielechowski

Introduced: 2/22/22

Referred: Health and Social Services, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to dementia awareness."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 * **Section 1.** AS 18.09 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 **Article 2A. Dementia Awareness Program.**

5 **Sec. 18.09.300. Dementia awareness program.** (a) The department shall
6 develop and implement a statewide dementia awareness program. The program must,
7 to the extent consistent with state law, secure the full benefits available to the state
8 under 42 U.S.C. 280c-3 - 280c-5.

9 (b) The department shall

10 (1) develop dementia educational materials and provide the materials
11 to health boards, physicians, hospitals, and medical clinics for distribution to the
12 public;

13 (2) develop targeted, job-specific educational programs related to
14 dementia for judicial staff, law enforcement, firefighters, social service providers, and
15 emergency responders that address recognizing symptoms of dementia and responding

1 to the needs of persons with dementia;

2 (3) maintain a list of state providers who diagnose, evaluate, or
3 manage dementia;

4 (4) consult with the major state and national nonprofit organizations
5 providing care and support for individuals living with dementia to develop
6 informational material about the symptoms and treatment of dementia for a public
7 awareness campaign;

8 (5) coordinate with the public and community organizations to develop
9 and implement community-based programs and activities to educate the public about
10 dementia; and

11 (6) implement a public awareness campaign designed to inform the
12 public about dementia and encourage the public to seek diagnosis using a variety of
13 media to

14 (A) publicize the scope and magnitude of dementia in the state;

15 (B) promote the benefits of early detection and diagnosis of
16 dementia, including community events that emphasize the importance of
17 seeking a diagnosis when an individual experiences symptoms of dementia;

18 (C) increase public awareness regarding the causes and nature
19 of dementia, the available methods individuals and families may use to
20 minimize the risk of developing dementia, including diet and physical exercise,
21 and the services available in the state to diagnose and treat dementia;

22 (D) promote the availability and importance of the annual
23 wellness visit available to Medicare recipients;

24 (E) publish easily understandable information about the
25 symptoms and treatment of dementia on the department's Internet website; and

26 (F) disseminate the list of state providers who diagnose,
27 evaluate, or manage dementia, a description of diagnostic procedures for
28 identifying dementia, and a description of the current state of research on
29 treatment of dementia.