

alzheimer's  association  
**North Dakota 2014 Public Policy Platform**

*More than 20,000 North Dakota residents are living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias. The Alzheimer's Association is working across North Dakota to change the landscape of dementia care and services for those affected. We call on our state policymakers to:*

**Increase access to and the quality of care in medical, residential, home and community-based settings.** As Baby Boomers approach age 65, the critical need increases for advanced and additional diagnostic, disease management and care coordination services. North Dakotans with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias will need access to a broad array of quality services to keep them healthy in their setting of choice for as long as possible.

**Build on the success of the Dementia Care Services Project by laying the ground work for a contract expansion to at least \$1.4 million biennially.**

- Promote the success of the program as a groundbreaking approach to Alzheimer's care that could be a model for other states.
- Provide statistical reports, testimony and family caregiver advocacy to Committee members informing them of data elements and initial findings; and

**Support and empower family caregivers.** Seventy percent of people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias live at home, where they are cared for by family and friends. As the disease progresses, most families must also seek other sources of help. We urge North Dakota legislators to:

- Expand access to caregiver support services, including respite and training, regardless of age, income or locality; and
- Together with collaborative partners advocate for additional resources serving vulnerable populations.

**Keep assistance programs accessible to persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.**

Medicaid provides health services, nursing home care and various home- and community-based services to individuals who meet program requirements. It is important to:

- Oppose adverse changes to Medicaid eligibility;
- Assure access to Medicaid and Medicare services in the most appropriate setting of their choice for persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias; and

**Federal level platform:**

- Encourage members of Congress to sign onto the HOPE for Alzheimer's Act.
- **Support** the \$ 122 million Alzheimer's appropriation in the bi-partisan Congressional budget bill.

**For more information, contact:**

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