

**Advocacy Day  
March 4, 2014**

**FACT SHEET**

**AB 1570 (Chesbro) – Support  
Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs)**

**Overview**

The California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing division, oversees approximately 7,500 licensed Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs). Also known as assisted living or board and care homes, this level of care between independent living and skilled nursing facilities serves approximately 170,000 older residents. Some facilities are as small as 6 or fewer beds in a private home, others may be as large as several hundred units. The population of residents with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia is growing because of demographic trends and this is often the preferred or most appropriate long-term care setting for residents who need assistance, but who are not medically complex.

**Key Messages**

1. AB 1570 is authored by Assemblyman Wes Chesbro (D-Santa Rosa) and sponsored by the California Assisted Living Association (CALA).
2. The Alzheimer's Association is proud to co-sponsor AB 1570 because it is the only proposed RCFE bill that specifically addresses dementia training for all direct care staff.
3. AB 1570 makes an important distinction; dementia is prevalent in most RCFEs, not just those that advertise or promote specialized dementia care. That's why this bill proposes increased dementia training hours for all direct care staff and it specifies 1) the number of hours required before working with residents, 2) hands on training and 3) annual, ongoing training after the first year on the job. All three of these requirements are essential to quality dementia care.
4. AB 1570 supports direct care staff by increasing the training hours and bolstering the licensing exam for RCFE administrators. Quality facilities have strong leadership and competent staff.
5. The bill proposes 20 hours of dementia-specific training in the first year of employment, which breaks down as 12 hours of instruction before working independently with residents and 8 hours of ongoing training. Thereafter, 8 hours of dementia training is required over the course of the remaining year, plus 8 additional hours annually for each subsequent year.
6. The Alzheimer's Association is a statewide expert in dementia training and offers affordable and accessible options to licensed facilities in local communities.

## Be Careful About These Topics

There are at least a dozen RCFE-related bills being considered by the Legislature in the wake of incidents of abuse and other