



the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer®

Alzheimer's Association Oregon Chapter 2013 Public Policy Priorities

Over 76,000 Oregonians are living with Alzheimer's disease, a number expected to rise to 110,000 by 2025. The burden of Alzheimer's disease is far-reaching, touching every corner of our state. More than 165,000 Oregon residents provide daily care for loved ones with this fatal brain disease. The financial toll of Alzheimer's nationwide on Medicare, Medicaid, and businesses is estimated at over \$200 billion annually. In Oregon, where 70% of people with Alzheimer's are cared for at home, the value of unpaid family caregivers is \$2.2 billion. This year, we learned that the demands of caregiving increases the health care costs on Oregon caregivers by over \$90 million each year.¹

We must take action now for Oregonians impacted by this devastating disease. Alzheimer's can't wait. Standing by, while our people suffer and the state budget is decimated, is not an option.

Implement the State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease in Oregon. Over the past two years, we have outlined comprehensive state strategies to address the needs of persons with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers. The state must prepare for the impending influx of consumers of state-funded long term care services.

We collaborated with physicians, scientists, non-profit organizations dedicated to serving those with dementia, private sector senior care providers, police agencies, family caregivers, state government employees who serve seniors and their families, and state legislators to craft the State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease in Oregon (SPADO). The plan lays out five main goals, with multiple recommendations for strategies to accomplish each goal. The goals are:

- 1) Enhance public awareness and engagement
- 2) Optimize care quality and efficiency
- 3) Protect individuals with dementia
- 4) Improve access to quality care, and
- 5) Comprehend, prevent, and effectively treat dementia and its impact.

Accomplishing these goals will require ongoing collaboration between state and local governments, private sector care providers, and non-profit agencies that help people impacted by Alzheimer's. The plan identifies responsible parties, implementation timeframes, and measurable outcomes to determine whether the plan is successful in achieving its goals.

¹ All figures are from the 2012 *Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures* report available at alz.org/facts.

In 2013, we will work in coalition with the Task Force members and new partners to implement the recommendations in the plan. We also will work to garner legislative approval through a resolution in support of the state plan in the 2013 legislative session. We will support state budget requests for any items in the plan that require funds, such as expanding the Gatekeeper program to all areas of the state.

Adopt the Caregiving and Cognitive Impairment Modules to the 2014 BRFSS Survey. Oregon must identify Alzheimer's as a public health issue. The Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System, BRFSS, is a telephone survey system conducted annually by state health departments. Surveillance is a public health tool used to develop data on the incidence, prevalence, and risk factors for particular diseases. We were successful in our 2011 and 2012 goals of including these modules in the 2012 and 2013 BRFSS. Our goal is for Oregon to:

- Ensure the continued inclusion of modules about cognitive impairment and caregiving to the state's BRFSS survey;
- Ensure that the resulting data are analyzed and reported publicly to support and guide state efforts to address this growing public health crisis.

Long Term Care 3.0

Oregon's Department of Human Services (DHS) is embarking on a process to overhaul Oregon's long term care system. This presents an opportunity to improve the quality of services, increase access, and improve quality of life for Oregonians with Alzheimer's and their families. We will be working closely with DHS, the Oregon legislature, and our coalition partners to ensure this effort results in the best possible outcomes.

Health Care Transformation

As Governor Kitzhaber proceeds with an ambitious effort to transform the way health care is organized delivered in Oregon through the Oregon Health Plan, we will:

- Monitor the impact changes may have on families impacted by Alzheimer's and related dementia;
- Offer suggestions on ways to improve the quality, cost, and access to services, supports, and medical care through this process;
- Collaborate with coalition partners in protecting evidence-based practices found to help persons with dementia and their caregivers.

For more information on these issues, contact:

Jon Bartholomew

Communications and Public Policy Director

503-416-0202

jon.bartholomew@alz.org

Alzheimer's Association Oregon Chapter

1650 NW Naito Parkway, Suite 190

Portland, OR 97209

503-416-0201 <http://www.alz.org/oregon>

Contact us toll-free for emotional support, local resources, and information about Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. 24-hour Helpline 800.272.3900
We're here to help you through every step of your journey.

Alzheimer's Association Mission Statement

To eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.