

WISCONSIN'S 2016 STATE POLICY PLATFORM

More than 110,000 Wisconsin residents are living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. This number is projected to grow to 130,000 in Wisconsin by the year 2025.

Given the sweeping economic, social, and psychological impact Alzheimer's disease has on Wisconsin, the state needs a proactive response to this issue. The Alzheimer's Association will focus on the following policy priorities in Wisconsin in 2016:

Introduce a Uniform Guardian Bill

Wisconsin is one of only eight states without Uniform Guardianship in place

- Enables courts in different states to communicate with each other about adult guardianship and determine the appropriate court to oversee the guardianship process
- Avoids unnecessary financial and emotional challenges for families
- We have been in contact with Representative Rohrkaste's office (Chair of the Speaker's Legislative Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia) to introduce a bill. They expressed an interest to review this topic and we will follow up. Wisconsin currently has a robust guardianship system. The goal will be to draft legislation that keeps the strength of the current laws while aligning with the proposed uniform guardianship laws. We will be working with the legislators as well as numerous groups around the state who advocate guardianship issues on behalf of the elderly and those with disabilities.

Long Term Care Redesign

The long term care system in Wisconsin is in the midst of an overhaul.

- We will continue to monitor the upcoming changes to Wisconsin's long term care system as it moves to integrate acute care and long term into one benefit. We will be working with the Wisconsin Long Term Care Coalition, which includes AARP, GWAAR, WAAN, Disability Rights, and other groups.

Support efforts to continue to move forward with the Plan for a Dementia Capable Wisconsin

The state of Wisconsin has made great progress with the or state plan, however support from legislators to assure continued progress and implementation will be key to its continued success. Key components are to:

- Increase awareness of Alzheimer's and dementia to the public; encouraging early detection
- Equip health care professionals and systems to better deal with persons with Alzheimer's or dementia
- Meet the needs of unpaid caregivers
- Promote and ensure annual dementia-specific training for all residential care staff
- Expand strength in mobile crisis systems to respond to difficult behaviors
- Ensure there is adequate state wide capacity for emergency protective placements

Monitor for programs and output of the Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia

- Work with legislative staff on possible bills that may be recommended or introduced

For more information on these issues, please contact:

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Contact the Alzheimer's Association's toll-free **Helpline at 800.272.3900** for emotional support, local resources, and information about Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. We're here to help you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The mission of the Alzheimer's Association is 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.
