

Connecticut Chapter's Public Policy Platform -- 2015

The 2015 legislative platform reflects our continued commitment to ensuring Quality of Care for individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's disease, related dementias, or other types of cognitive impairment. Consistent with the mission of the Alzheimer's Association, we advocate legislative and policy initiatives to promote dementia awareness, and enhance care and support for all affected throughout the continuum of long-term care.

Respite Care and Community-Based Support

The Connecticut Chapter supports increasing state funding of the Respite Care Program by 10%.

- This program provides relief to stressed caregivers, allowing them to take a break from their 24/7 responsibilities, so Alzheimer's patients can then stay at home longer with loved ones and delay nursing home stays.
- The growing size of our state population that is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias requires expansion of respite services.
- More than 72,000 Connecticut State residents are living with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. This state number is projected to grow to over 91,000 by 2025.

The Chapter supports additional funding for individuals with younger onset Alzheimer's disease through the proposed expansion of the Connecticut Home Care Program for the Disabled waiver program.

Improve Dementia Training

Last session Connecticut's General Assembly passed S.B. 179 implementing mandatory dementia-specific training for licensed and registered providers of services to persons with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The Connecticut Chapter supports expanding these requirements, as follows:

- Require mandatory dementia-specific training for hospital emergency room staff, including nurses, physicians and medical technicians. Build upon the existing collaboration between the Alzheimer's Association CT Chapter and the CT Hospital Association.
- Require dementia specific training for drivers of Dial-a-Ride and ADA transportation services and expand services to include escorted door-to-door services for people with dementia.
- Integrate and continue basic level of dementia-specific training and education for public safety responders, long-term care ombudsman, protective service employees, probate judges and court personnel.
- Expand annual missing person's police force training to include dementia education. (CGS section 7-294o).

For more information on these issues, please contact:

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