

FACT SHEET

SB 444

ALZ.ORG/GEORGIA

Establish the GARD Advisory Council

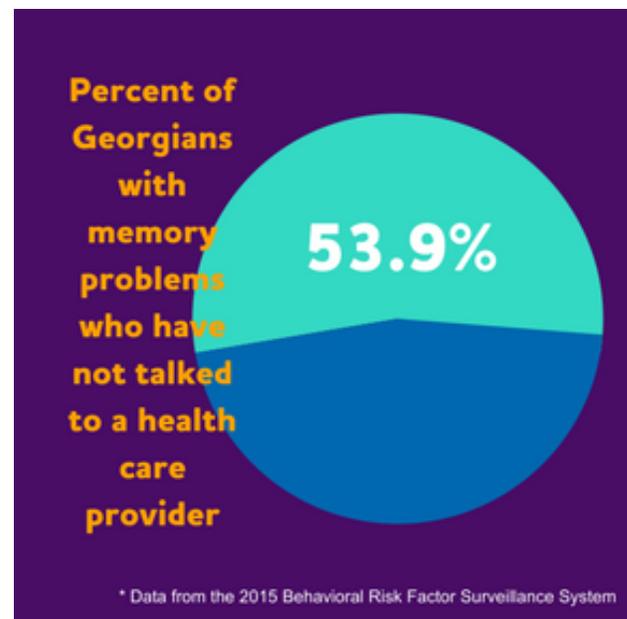
In 2013, the Georgia General Assembly declared Alzheimer's disease a looming public health crisis and established the Georgia Alzheimer's and Related Dementias (GARD) State Plan Taskforce to create a comprehensive state plan for Georgia to address the crisis. We need to continue the progress towards making Georgia dementia-capable.

Reauthorize

It is critical that we continue to make Alzheimer's & other dementias a priority and plan appropriately for the increasing impact on Georgia's workforce, policy, budget & citizens. The GARD State Plan Advisory Council needs to be established to ensure that we continue efforts to make Georgia dementia-capable & keep working on goals set forth in the State Plan.

48 States have plans

- State Alzheimer's Disease Plans create the infrastructure and accountability necessary to confront the sweeping economic and social impact of this devastating disease.
- With the rapidly growing and changing extent of the Alzheimer's crisis, it is essential that state plans become living documents that states and stakeholders regularly consult and re-evaluate.



2016 GARD Highlights

- June 1 - The GARD State Plan Coordinator began working at DAS
- 70 stakeholders are engaged in...
- 6 active workgroups that include: Workforce Development, Service Delivery, Public Safety, Outreach & Partnerships, Policy and Healthcare, Research, & Data Collection

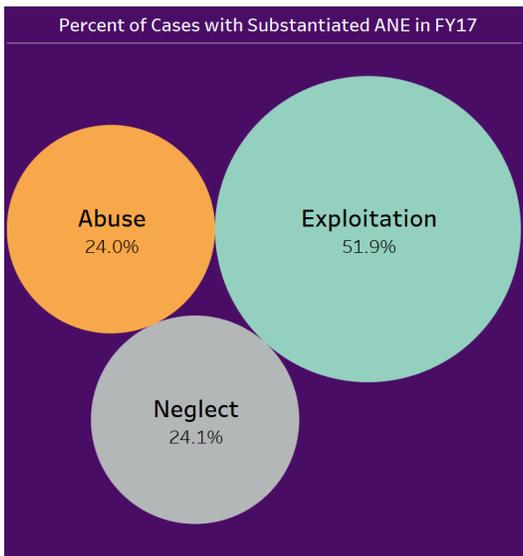
FACT SHEET

HB 803

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Benefits Trafficking is Exploitation

The elderly & disabled, especially those living with dementia, are often financially exploited. Cases are on the rise of older adults being collected, coerced, isolated & deceived in order to unlawfully use their public benefits: Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps & more. Tax-payer dollars being misused and the consequences to the older adult are devastating. These actions are benefits tracking and we are asking you to make them a crime in Georgia. Let's protect our most vulnerable citizens.

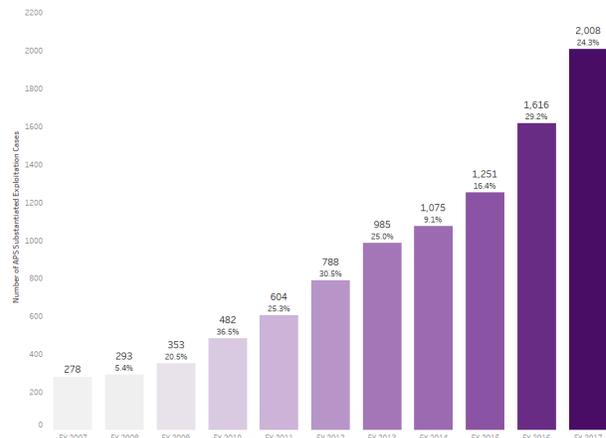


Repeat Offenders

Unfortunately, the perpetrators of these benefits tracking crimes are often closing up shop in one area, when discovered, and starting the whole scheme over again in a new location because these crimes are not currently identified in the criminal statutes. It's critical that we send them a signal that Georgia will not tolerate these crimes.

This issue was identified by the GBI At-Risk Adult Abuse Neglect & Exploitation Work Group in collaboration with numerous stakeholders. Georgia has been forward-thinking in its legislative action to counter Elder Abuse in the past and this new law would continue to strengthen the exploitation statute allowing law enforcement and prosecutors the tools to bolster the fight on Elder Abuse.

Georgia Adult Protective Services
Substantiated Exploitation Cases



FACT SHEET

JANUARY 2018

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Fiscal Year 2019 HCBS Funding

The Alzheimer's Association, GA Chapter supports the Georgia Council on Aging's \$10 Million ask for Non-Medicaid Home & Community-Based Services. These services assist families in keeping their loved ones with Alzheimer's or other dementias home & delaying Medicaid-funded services for an average of 50 mos.



NUMBER OF ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA CAREGIVERS, HOURS OF UNPAID CARE, AND COSTS OF CAREGIVING

Year	Number of Caregivers	Total Hours of Unpaid Care	Total Value of Unpaid Care	Higher Health Costs of Caregivers
2016	519,000	591,000,000	\$7,478,000,000	\$283,000,000



MEDICAID COSTS OF CARING FOR PEOPLE WITH ALZHEIMER'S, 2017

\$1.038
BILLION

% change in Medicaid costs from 2017 to 2025

48.7%

*(excerpts from 2017 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures)

Cost burden is shared

The over 500,000 Georgia Alzheimer's Caregivers in 2016 provided almost \$7.5 Billion in unpaid care. Home & Community-Based Services are critical to families caring for a person with Alzheimer's or another dementia. The in-home services, adult day care, and meal delivery services assist caregivers in remaining gainfully employed and in reducing stress which can lead to a decline in their health.

FACT SHEET

JANUARY 2018

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Access to Quality Long Term Care



1 IN 3
seniors dies
with Alzheimer's or
another dementia

Numerous people living with dementia, experiencing dementia-related behavioral challenges, are being refused admittance to Long Term Care (LTC) facilities or being refused return after a hospital stay. The House of Representatives should urge the GARD Advisory Council to review the strengths and weaknesses of current regulations, as well as assess opportunities for improving access and availability of

of quality long term care. GARD should develop and bring back to the General Assembly recommendations and any legislation needed to improve access and quality within this complex issue.

Benefits of GARD Review

- Convene multiple stakeholders to identify the complexity of the issue & educate legislators
- Hear from families impacted by the lack of available LTC facilities qualified to adequately care for people living with Alzheimer's or other dementias
- Determine future legislation to improve the access & availability of LTC in Georgia while not being punitive to LTC providers.

*(data from 2017 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures.)



61%

**of nursing home
residents in 2014
had moderate or
severe cognitive
impairment.***