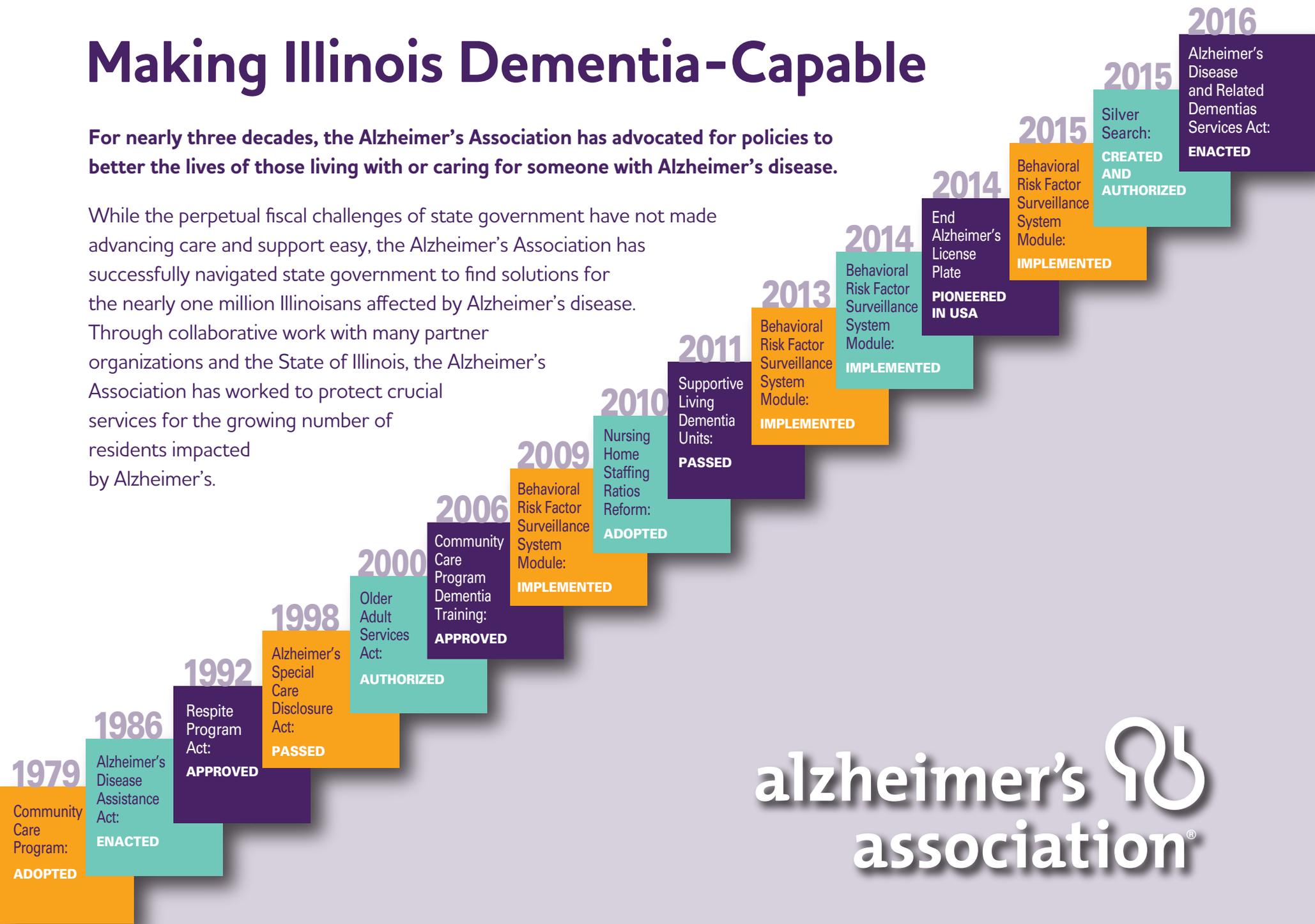


Making Illinois Dementia-Capable

For nearly three decades, the Alzheimer's Association has advocated for policies to better the lives of those living with or caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease.

While the perpetual fiscal challenges of state government have not made advancing care and support easy, the Alzheimer's Association has successfully navigated state government to find solutions for the nearly one million Illinoisans affected by Alzheimer's disease. Through collaborative work with many partner organizations and the State of Illinois, the Alzheimer's Association has worked to protect crucial services for the growing number of residents impacted by Alzheimer's.



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2016 Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Services Act Enacted

Creates the first statewide minimum training standards for any facility or home- and community-based care service that hold themselves out as providers of dementia care. Loopholes existed in state statute, allowing misleading advertisements to residents. This act eliminates previous loopholes and strengthens protections for Illinois consumers seeking dementia care.

2015 Silver Search Created

Illinois previously had a vague and confusing program to search for residents with Alzheimer's who've wandered. Silver Search streamlines this process by creating a toolkit for local law enforcement and search and rescue personnel to access in the crucial time frame after one with Alzheimer's has wandered.

2015 2014 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Module Implemented

2013 2009 The Alzheimer's Association worked closely with the Illinois Department of Public Health to secure funding for modules of questions in the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) annual, nationwide health survey. This data, validated by experts at the CDC, reinforces what the Alzheimer's Association has communicated for years – Alzheimer's disease is a looming public health epidemic. These modules of questions do not come cheap, but the data is invaluable in channeling the urgency to policymakers that Alzheimer's disease must be addressed. The Alzheimer's Association also worked to secure this type of data and varying levels of funding in 2009, 2013 and 2014.

2014 End Alzheimer's License Plate Pioneered in USA

To assist the Alzheimer's Association in its ongoing mission to provide and enhance care and support for the growing number of residents affected, the Alzheimer's Association advanced legislation to create a specialty Illinois End Alzheimer's license plate. The proceeds from every plate renewal are returned

to the Association to strengthen its efforts in addressing the Alzheimer's epidemic in Illinois. Illinois was the first state in the country to produce an End Alzheimer's license plate.

2011 Supportive Living Dementia Units Created

With the number of Illinois residents in need of dementia care services growing year over year, the Alzheimer's Association urged the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) to act. HFS created the first-ever pilot program for dementia units in supportive living facilities. With an initial five locations approved to accept residents, in 2016 HFS announced an expansion of the program just months after the Alzheimer's Association released their annual Facts and Figures Report showing an additional 10,000 residents had developed the disease.

2010 Nursing Home Staffing Ratios Reform – Increased

After an in-depth investigative series by the Chicago Tribune and advocates raising awareness to the immediate need for nursing home reforms, Governor Pat Quinn and House Speaker Michael J. Madigan established Nursing Home Safety Task Forces. The Governor's task force published a comprehensive report with testimony from Illinois residents who had experienced alarmingly low staffing levels in long-term care facilities. Families affected by Alzheimer's disease provided public comments to the task force about how staffing ratios were dangerously low. The task force provided a catalyst for legislative action, resulting in unprecedented nursing home safety reforms including staff-to-patient ratio increases every year through 2014.

2006 Community Care Program Dementia Training Funded

With over 70 per cent of those living with Alzheimer's disease residing in their homes and receiving community-based services, the Alzheimer's Association worked with Illinois State Senator Bill Haine to secure a \$1 million grant for the education and training of adult day center staff participating in the Community

Care Program. The grant allowed for 440 adult day staff to attend Association conferences and seminars on dementia care best practices including two train-the-trainer programs.

2000 Older Adult Services Act Instituted

As Illinois developed a comprehensive statewide aging network to provide for the massive number of Illinois residents affected by Alzheimer's disease, organizing these programs for the convenience of the consumer became quite clear. The Older Adult Services Act built upon the accomplishments of the past and took another step forward in the fight against Alzheimer's disease. This law confronted the reality that if we are to continue supporting this vulnerable population, funding for programs would be critical. From providing appropriations for Alzheimer's adult day centers, to establishing grant money for the building of Alzheimer's special care units and centers, Illinois provided vital resources to care for persons with dementia through this legislation. Lastly, the Act tied all services and programs together with the creation of the Older Adult Services Advisory Committee (OASAC), which the Alzheimer's Association continues to serve on, as the leading voice for Illinoisans with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

1998 Alzheimer's Special Care Disclosure Act Passed

Anticipating the oncoming number of state residents with Alzheimer's disease needing tailored and professionally trained care, the Alzheimer's Association took action to establish Alzheimer's Special Care Units and Centers. These newly defined units would pave the way for consumers to easily identify and seek care specific to their diagnosis of Alzheimer's or a related dementia.

1992 Respite Program Act Approved

The Illinois General Assembly, as illustrated by their willingness to pass the Alzheimer's Disease Assistance Act just years prior, recognized that they had left out an important piece to addressing the oncoming Alzheimer's epidemic: caregivers.

In a noteworthy action, the legislature passed the Respite Program Act allowing for true relief for those caring around the clock for one with Alzheimer's disease. In fact the legislature deemed caregiver relief so urgent that the law gave priority to those caring for one with dementia. Coupled with the first-ever caregiver supports in the act, the law also provided the state authority to train and educate all respite workers on Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

1986 Alzheimer's Disease Assistance Act Established

Landmark legislation creating the very first state plan passed the Illinois legislature. The State of Illinois Alzheimer's Disease State Plan is the public health road map to making Illinois dementia capable. The Alzheimer's Disease Assistance Act also created the Illinois Alzheimer's Disease Research Fund, placing a tax check-off box on Illinois income tax filing forms. This accomplishment created one of the first abilities in the country for citizens to financially invest in the mission to end Alzheimer's disease.

1979 Community Care Program Initiated

The Illinois Act on Aging includes language creating the statewide Community Care Program (CCP). Although intended to serve all seniors with a menu of home- and community-based services (HCBS), the only disease or specified chronic illness mentioned in the law is Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Authorized to deflect seniors from premature institutionalization, the Illinois CCP quickly grew to meet the high demand of in-home and respite care services. To date, the CCP is one of the largest and most robust HCBS statewide programs found anywhere in the country, serving as many as 105,000 seniors per month, many of whom have Alzheimer's disease.

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