

## Make Tennessee a Dementia Capable State

### Alzheimer's disease is a growing public health crisis in Tennessee and the nation.

- 6th leading cause of death in the United States
- Affects **110,000 Tennesseans**.
- Expected to increase 27% by 2025
- 19 times more Medicaid dollars than average seniors
- 13% of Tennesseans over 60 report increased confusion or memory loss
- 31% of Tennesseans who report memory loss or confusion live alone
- Nearly **418,000 family caregivers** in Tennessee providing **476 million hours of unpaid care** for their loved ones
- The monetary value of this care is nearly **\$6 billion**
- *New England Journal of Medicine* reports that **Alzheimer's disease is now the most expensive disease in America**
- Surpassing both cancer and heart disease in fiscal cost
- Only leading cause of death among the top 10 without a way to prevent, cure, treat, or slow progression

### What can state officials do?

Thanks to the support of the Tennessee General Assembly in acknowledging the rising influence of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias on the citizens of our state through the passage of Public Chapter 566, the Tennessee Alzheimer's State Plan was signed in to law in 2009.

At the federal level, the CDC has partnered with the Alzheimer's Association over the past several years to develop **The Healthy Brain Initiative: The Public Health Road Map for State and National Partnerships, 2013–2018**, that outlines action steps that can be taken in order to improve cognitive health.

These plans are the gold standard across our state and the nation in responding to the growing public health crisis.

Alzheimer's advocates from across the state have come here today to share their concerns, express appreciation for your support, and ask for your help.

1. Home and community based services programs are a vital part of care planning for those affected by Alzheimer's disease. **This year's proposed budget calls for an additional \$1,000,000 for such care through increased funding for the *OPTIONS for Community Living Program*. We ask that you support this increase.**

2. In both the Public Road Map and the Alzheimer's State Plan, **increasing the understanding of cognitive health** is designated as an action of highest priority. To that end, we are coming to you today to ask for your help. **Will you commit to one of the following suggested action steps?**
  - **Include information on Alzheimer's Association and Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability (TCAD) websites in your newsletter or correspondence with your constituents**
  - **Keep information in your office in regard to resources for those affected by Alzheimer's disease.** The Alzheimer's Association and TCAD will provide this material for you.
  - **Ask your church or civic organization to invite the Alzheimer's Association to do an education program.** (Alzheimer's Association programs and services are provided at no cost).
3. Persons with dementia are among the most vulnerable in our state in regard to financial exploitation and abuse. **HB1064/SB1267 will help protect the elderly and those with Alzheimer's from financial exploitation and financial theft. Will you consider supporting this legislation to help protect the vulnerable?** (A copy of this bill is included for your convenience.)

**On behalf of the over 110,000 persons with dementia and 426,000 caregivers who cannot be here today to share their concerns and needs, we ask that you consider support of HB 1064/SB 1267.**

This legislation would:

- Assure that financial institutions consult with financial service providers, TCAD, and the Department of Human Services to promote education and awareness of the dangers of financial exploitation and financial theft, and
- Explore preventative measures that can be taken by vulnerable adults to avoid such dangers.

There is no fiscal attachment to this bill.

## Bill summary

HB 1064

Kevin Brooks

SB 1267

Mark Norris

Rusty Crowe

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39; Title 45; Title 47, Chapter 30; Title 48, Chapter 1 and Title 71, Chapter 6, relative to financial service providers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE: SECTION 1.

The Department of Financial Institutions shall consult with financial service providers, the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability, and the Department of Human Services to consider ways in which the entities can collaborate to promote education and awareness of the dangers to vulnerable adults of financial exploitation and financial theft and explore preventative measures that can be taken by vulnerable adults to avoid such dangers.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it.

*The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is 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. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's®. Visit [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) or call 800.272.3900.*