

Florida Public Policy Coalition

2018 State Priorities

alzheimer's  association®

Over 522,000 Floridians are living with Alzheimer's disease, and over 1.1 million people are caring for them. The Florida Public Policy Coalition of the Alzheimer's Association is working to build a dementia-capable state by creating an infrastructure of legislation and funding that will:

Identify individuals living with dementia and their families, and provide programs, services and support that improve their quality of life. We wish to include an increase of research dollars in the state, knowing that research is the most direct path to treatment and cure. We also seek to expand concern and awareness to further engage underserved and diverse communities in our state, including those that are more likely to have Alzheimer's or another form of dementia, such as African Americans and Latin Americans.

1

Increase Home and Community Services

The Alzheimer's Association supports the Department of Elder Affairs' Budget Recommendation for an additional \$3 Million in recurring funds for the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (or ADI) which provides much-needed respite services for caregivers. We also support an additional \$5 Million in funding for the Community Care for the Elderly Program (commonly known as CCE).

These funds support many of the 1.1 million Floridians who provide daily unpaid care for persons with dementia and help to mitigate the rising financial burden the disease has on our healthcare system. In the state of Florida alone, approximately \$20.1 Million was spent on Alzheimer's care over the past year.

2

Continue Alzheimer's Research Funding

The Alzheimer's Association supports the vital work of the Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program.

Currently, Alzheimer's disease is the only top-ten leading cause of death in America without a prevention, treatment or cure. It is the 6th leading cause of death in our nation **AND** is also the 6th leading cause of death in our state of Florida.

The Alzheimer's Association continues to support vital research in the state of Florida for Alzheimer's through the Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program; recognizing that research is the most direct path to treatment and cure.

For more information, or for assistance, please contact: the Alzheimer's Association's 24/7 Helpline at: 1-800-272-3900 or visit alz.org

3

Promote Early Detection, Early Diagnosis & Care

The Alzheimer's Association seeks to partner with the Department of Health and other organizations across the state in order to promote early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease- recognizing that this early diagnosis helps families plan more effectively and engage a greater level of free support and education services

The Alzheimer's Association is working with the Department of Health to include Alzheimer's and related dementias in the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). This is to ensure promotion of early detection and care-planning as a public health priority. We will also work to partner with state agencies in the distribution of prepared learning modules and an education symposium for clinicians and healthcare providers that support early detection and diagnosis and diagnosis.

4

Enhancing emergency preparedness plans to better protect people with dementias

Safety and well-being of elders and persons with dementia should always be a top public health priority in Florida. **This Session, we will work to ensure that priority goes to facilities that care for elders and persons with dementia, especially in preparation of an emergency and during an emergency. In addition, we will work with long-term care facilities to ensure that individuals with dementia are properly and humanely served.**

Previously, the Alzheimer's Association championed dementia training for employees of nursing homes, adult day care and hospice services. We will look to these community partners to help us collectively raise the standards for dementia care and training and actively promote the prevention of elder abuse across the state.

For more information on our state priorities, please contact Natalie Kelly at 850-570-5747 or nkelly@alz.org

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