



Minnesota - North Dakota Chapter

**Testimony
Senate Bill 2029
Human Services
Sen Diane Larson, Chair
January 13, 2025**

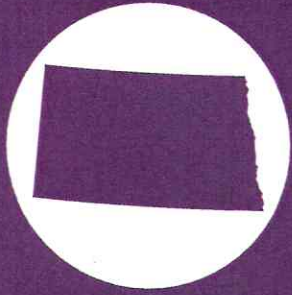
Good morning Chair Larson and members of the committee. My name is Melanie Gaebe and I am the North Dakota Public Policy Director for the Minnesota-North Dakota Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. I am here to provide neutral testimony on Senate Bill 2029. Alzheimer's and dementia touch our lives as caregivers, loved ones, friends, and family. I usually ask those in the room to raise their hand if they have been touched by this disease. However, in my time with the Alzheimer's Association, I have learned that the majority of the people we come into contact with on a daily basis would raise their hands.

I was struggling with how to label my testimony this morning. Is it truly neutral? Is it more like conditional support? I'm still not certain so we are calling it neutral. There are a number of items in this bill that are a good foundation for providing high quality care to the most vulnerable people in North Dakota. The point of hesitation or concern about supporting this bill outright, is subsection 3e. The office MAY provide training for guardians and conservators. Every job I have ever held has guaranteed training to set me up for success and we owe the same consideration to guardians and conservators, as well as their clients.

If we do not provide a guardian with the proper training and education, how can we expect them to provide the highest quality of care possible to our constituents? If you become a guardian of an adult with cognitive impairment but have little to no experience with Alzheimer's and dementia, effective communication with a person living with cognitive impairment, or even the basics of person centered care, you are being set up to fail.

If that may is changed to shall and stakeholders were able to assist in planning the education needed to protect their constituents, my testimony could change from neutral to supportive.

Thank you for your time, I'm happy to take questions.



2024 NORTH DAKOTA ALZHEIMER'S STATISTICS



PREVALENCE

Number of People Aged 65 and Older with Alzheimer's (2020)

13,700

% of Adults Over 65 with Alzheimer's

11.1%



CAREGIVING

of Caregivers

19,000

Caregivers with Chronic Health Conditions

60.1%

Total Hours of Unpaid Care

25,000,000

Caregivers with Depression

30.4%

Total Value of Unpaid Care

\$465,000,000

Caregivers in Poor Physical Health

8.6%



WORKFORCE

of Geriatricians in 2021

12

of Home Health and Personal Care Aides in 2020

6,790

Increase Needed to Meet 2050 Demand

183.3%

Increase Needed to Meet 2030 Demand

25.8%



HEALTH CARE

of People in Hospice (2017) with a Primary Diagnosis of Dementia

468

Dementia Patient Hospital Readmission Rate (2018)

18.4%

Hospice Residents with a Primary Diagnosis of Dementia

18%

Medicaid Costs of Caring for People with Alzheimer's (2020)

\$190M

of Emergency Department Visits per 1,000 People with Dementia (2018)

1,173

Projected Change in Medicaid Costs from 2020 to 2025

13.2%

Per Capita Medicare Spending on People with Dementia in 2023 Dollars

\$21,711



MORTALITY

of Deaths from Alzheimer's Disease (2021)

325

Alzheimer's Disease as Cause of Death Rank

5th

Nearly **7 million Americans** are living with Alzheimer's, and more than **11 million** provide their unpaid care. The cost of caring for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias is estimated to total **\$360 billion** in 2024, increasing to nearly **\$1 trillion** (in today's dollars) by mid-century. For more information, view the **2024 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures** report at alz.org/facts.

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