

**Minnesota-North Dakota Chapter**

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April 14, 2021

RE: House Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Omnibus Bill, HF 1078

**REGIONAL OFFICES**

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Fergus Falls  
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Dear Chair Moran and Members of the House Ways & Means Committee,

Thank you for all you are doing for the people of Minnesota during these difficult times. And thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the omnibus public safety budget, HF 1078.

The Alzheimer's Association strongly supports the inclusion of \$200,000 to expand Minnesota's Crime Alert Network System to include a missing person with dementia category (HF 1078, First Engrossment, Lines 4.3-4.9). The expansion of this statewide communications network under the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension will enable law enforcement agencies to quickly alert the public about a person with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. We encourage its inclusion in the final public safety budget.

Six out of 10 individuals with dementia will wander at some point, and many will wander repeatedly. We know that if individuals with dementia are not found within 24 hours, up to fifty percent suffer serious injury or death. A missing person with Alzheimer's isn't like a missing adult without cognitive impairment. They may not know they need help; they might not be able to explain that they are lost; and they may not recognize their own body is telling them to stop to eat or use the bathroom.

We appreciate that Chair Mariani included this provision from Representative Cheryl Youakim's bipartisan bill, HF 28, in this budget because the number of Minnesotans living with dementia continues to increase. We estimate there are 99,000 Minnesotans living with the disease and expect that number to reach 120,000 by the year 2025. Almost two-thirds of those living with Alzheimer's are women. Older Black or African Americans are two-times more likely and older Hispanic or Latinx Americans are one and one-half times more likely to have Alzheimer's or other dementia than older whites.

This provision takes a positive step and we look forward to working with the Minnesota House of Representatives to ensure that Minnesotans living with Alzheimer's are safe in their communities and that the first responders who are called when they need help have the resources needed to help this growing population, especially when they are in crisis.

Thank you again for including the funding to expand the Crime Alert Network System in Minnesota and for supporting Minnesotans with dementia, their families, and their caregivers.

And thank you for your consideration.

With deep appreciation,



Josh Ney

Manager of State Affairs

Alzheimer's Association, Minnesota-North Dakota Chapter

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