



March 10, 2021

To: Chair Williams and Members of the House Committee on Human Services
From: Sara Kofman, Alzheimer's Association Oregon & Southwest Washington Chapter
Subject: Support for HB 2595

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2595. This legislation would require the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to conduct staffing and workload analysis and update it before developing biennial budgets and whenever ODHS implements policies or procedures affecting workloads of local office staff.

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, we are grateful to the dedicated staff at ODHS that serve as a crucial access point for individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementias to Oregon's system of long-term services and supports. Case managers play an important role in ensuring person-centered plans of care for individuals affected by Alzheimer's and other dementias. As the case load grows, it can become difficult to identify people with dementia and provide dementia-specific plans of care. Further, Adult Protective Services provides a critical safety net for the aging services system in Oregon. An appropriately trained and adequately staffed Adult Protective Services system can help ensure the safety and well-being of people with dementia. HB 2595 will give OHDS and the Oregon Legislature current and accurate data to help make informed decisions on staffing levels, policy changes and program administration. In turn, this will help ensure that individuals with dementia can live in health, honor and dignity.

The Alzheimer's Association is the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support, and research. We work in strategic partnership with our sister organization, the Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM), to make Alzheimer's a national priority. Together, the Alzheimer's Association and AIM advocate for policies to fight Alzheimer's disease, including increased investment in research, improved care and support, and advancement of approaches to reduce the risk of developing dementia. Alzheimer's disease is a fatal and progressive disease that attacks the brain, killing nerve cells and tissue, affecting an individual's ability to remember, think, plan and ultimately function. It is the sixth leading cause of death in our state. Today, an estimated 69,000 Oregonians are living with Alzheimer's disease. By 2025 – barring the development of medical breakthroughs to prevent, stop or slow Alzheimer's disease – this number is projected to grow by more than 20 percent.

For these reasons, the Alzheimer's Association supports the passage of HB 2595. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. Please contact Sara Kofman at skofman@alz.org with any questions.