

January 31,2023

To: Chris Madden-

Director Public Policy Alzheimer's Association

SPADO staff

This is a letter in support of SB 796 introduced to the 2023 legislature to 'Establish an Oregon Memory Net ' (OMN)program. This plan has been developed after decades of effort by a broad coalition of groups representing DHS, citizens, agencies, providers, and academic institutions. Based on highly successful efforts in Wisconsin, Georgia, and California, the OMN will promote a framework to identify people living with dementia throughout the state and provide them with evidence based best practice guidelines for initial screening, diagnosis, specialty evaluation, primary care supervision and coordination, and community services support to engage and provide resources for caregivers and families.

Older Oregonians are a rapidly growing cohort and those with neurocognitive disease are a growing percentage of this group. The need to provide an early and accurate diagnosis as well emotional, educational and professional resources for these individuals and their families is rising. Persons living with dementia and their family caregivers are experiencing serious major mental health problems that can be addressed with this model of care.

In addition, the OMN framework integrates primary care providers and caregivers in their own communities and is a welcome challenge for the OHSU Family Medicine department to continue its excellent commitment train family doctors working throughout the state with an emphasis on our rural areas where there continues to be a shortage of physicians to meet this need.

We look forward to contributing to the planning process and training primary care physicians with the Oregon Memory Net program and hope you can support this legislation. Yours truly,

Dr. Jennifer DeVoe MD, DPhil

Professor and Chair, Family Medicine OHSU