

North Carolinians Impacted by Dementia are Urged to Attend Alzheimer's Advocacy Day on May 7

Advocates for all forms of dementia will address the need for public health prioritization

The Alzheimer's Association - Western Carolina Chapter and Alzheimer's Association - Eastern North Carolina Chapter are calling on North Carolinians to turn the North Carolina State Capitol purple for Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia on Tuesday, May 7. The date marks North Carolina Advocacy Day 2024 when advocates from around the state will convene in Raleigh to support the fight against Alzheimer's.

The event - which takes place from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. beginning at the North Carolina Museum of History - will be an opportunity for the public and those affected by Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia to take action and speak up for the needs and rights of people living with and their families. Attendees will learn about the legislative process; meet face-to-face with elected officials; share their personal story with key decision makers; and bring awareness to the importance of the Alzheimer's Association's public policy priorities.

The costs of Alzheimer's on North Carolina are unsustainable. Dementia caregivers bear nearly twice the average out-of-pocket costs of non-dementia caregivers, having to cover medical care, personal care and household expenses for the person with dementia. In 2023, the total national cost of caring for individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementia was projected to reach \$345 billion. The Medicaid costs of caring for people with Alzheimer's in North Carolina are estimated at \$1.3 billion. By 2025, these costs are projected to increase by 22%.

"Alzheimer's disease is one of the most critical public health issues in America. This is why we unrelentingly advocate for public policies that increase quality of life and support all those affected," said Katherine L. Lambert, CEO of the Alzheimer's Association - Western Carolina Chapter. "Representation from our communities across North Carolina is paramount. That's why we urge as many people as possible to join us for our North Carolina Advocacy Day. By working together, we are making an impact."

Attendees will hear an overview of the public health crisis of Alzheimer's in North Carolina. They will also learn more about North Carolina's first and only dementia-specific state respite care plan, Project C.A.R.E. (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty), including its current funding limits and why a funding increase has become necessary. Advocates will be speaking to elected officials and their designated representatives regarding a few key areas:

- Codifying the Dementia-Capable North Carolina State Plan to ensure infrastructure is established to address the growing dementia crisis.
- Establishing evidence based training for court appointed guardians for those with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.
- Learning of the importance of dementia-specific training for all Adult Protective Services workers in the field throughout North Carolina.

There is no charge to participate, but registration is required to ensure an accurate headcount. No prior experience required, but attendees will be asked to participate in a training call prior to the event. Sign up at:

tinyurl.com/ALZNCStateAdvocacyDay2024 or by calling 800-272-3900.

Additional Facts and Figures: (alz.org/facts)

- An estimated 6.7 million Americans age 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's dementia, including 180,000 North Carolina residents, a number estimated to grow to as many as 210,000 by 2025.
- Nationally, more than 11 million caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. In North Carolina, 369,000 caregivers provide a total of 533 million hours of unpaid care, valued at a total of \$8 billion.
- One in three seniors, died with Alzheimer's or other dementia.
- Nearly two-thirds of those with Alzheimer's - 3.9 million - are women.
- Older non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanic Americans are disproportionately more likely than older whites to have Alzheimer's or other dementias.

About the Alzheimer's Association The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia - by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia.

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If interested you may bring resume to the office:

Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition
 204 East Wade Street in Wadesboro
 Office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
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