



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2837</b>		DATE: <b>4/22/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Health and Mental Health Policy</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C.HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-440-9000</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>P.O. BOX #1535</b>		
CITY: <b>O' FALLON</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63366</b>
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@mail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/15/2024 11:28 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I am in Support of this Bill and intension. But let's make ground and get Programs and Services to serve Missourians with "Alzheimer's" as soon as possible, when diagnosed. Let's make some great In-Roads with Research and joining efforts with State Universities with studies on this subject to find remedies.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CATHERINE ROEHL</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-443-6922</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR OF STATE AFFAIRS</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1601 E BROADWAY, #245</b>			
CITY: <b>COLUMBIA</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65201</b>
EMAIL: <b>cjroehl@alz.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>physical</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/15/2024 2:03 AM</b>	

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Good afternoon, Chairman Stephens and members of the Health and Mental Health Policy committee. Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments for a second time today. I would also like to thank Representative Mayhew for sponsoring this legislation. I'm Catherine Roehl and I am representing the Alzheimer's Association as the Director of State Affairs in support of HB 2837, to modify the establishing language of the Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force, with the amendment that the phrase "advice and consent of the senate" is removed from line 33 on page 2. As I mentioned a couple of minutes ago, the Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support, and research. We currently serve 115 counties in Missouri, and one of our goals is to ensure the state is equipped to handle the increasing number of individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's and other dementias. One such initiative to do this, was the establishment of an Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force. It was originally passed in 2021, however, it was not appointed and needed to be reestablished with a new timeline in 2022. This was largely due to the lengthy appointment process each of the 21 members was required to go through, being a Senate confirmation hearing for members that are not part of the general assembly or department and division directors. While appointments were made from, roughly, October – December 2022, they were removed in the new year, after the State Plan was published on January 1, 2023. This has prohibited the Task Force from meeting in an official capacity and providing the annual update to the State Plan, as dictated in statute. It is my understanding that Senate confirmation hearings for individuals appointed to a task force is not common, and am asking that the language creating the requirement be removed to allow the group to remain appointed and keep the current State Plan up to date. The Association is also in support of the removal of the December 2027 expiration date and the subsequent requirement that a new State Plan be published every five years, starting in 2027. As there continue to be developments in Alzheimer's and dementia research, the challenges those living with the disease are also changing, and the numbers of those being diagnosed is only increasing. The guidance outlining how Missouri should address this public health crisis and support those living with the disease needs to remain up to date to reflect those changes. We have already seen positive outcomes from the current state plan, and want to make sure those benefits can be seen into the future. Instead of seeking to reestablish the Task Force every five years, the thought was to have a standing Task Force that could continuously be addressing these issues. We ask for your support of these modifications in the existing language relating to the Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force, and appreciate your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>GRACE ELAINE DAVIS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-825-1281</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>174 BROCH TUARACH PLACE</b>			
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My name is Grace Davis. I wrote in support of HB 2071, and my story is stated therein. I'm going to focus in this testimony on what I understand the facts of HB 2837 are, and the good that RSMo 191.116 has done thus far. The Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force has already been in action, and goes hand in hand with the work the State Coordinator would implement. The Missouri Alzheimer's State Plan Taskforce is a group that was commissioned by you all, the legislature, to assess the current and future impact of Alzheimer's on Missourians and offer solutions for the future. It involves the key agencies on the state / public side of Dementia care, including the Department of Health and Human Services, Social Services, Department of Mental Health, and the Veterans Commission. Members of your assembly, of the House of Representatives and Senate, are on the taskforce. Professionals who advocate for and work with people with Dementia are in the group. Caregivers are in the group. And at least one person with Alzheimer's or Dementia is there to bring an inside perspective on this horrible disease. The purpose of the Task force is to gather information, from a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives on the board, and from the public, and to assess the impact of Alzheimer's and Dementia on the people of our great state. The hope is that the Task Force can offer multifaceted and practical solutions. They put together the state plan, which is essential to allow each of you on this committee to address the policy side of the equation; to allow someone like the (hopeful) state coordinator to address the coordination of care, services, respite, and resources; to allow agencies to work in harmony and with a unified goal; to create accountability for all stakeholders; to allow a conversation about the suggestions put forth; and to provide transparency and a place for input for Missourians. The Task Force has hosted town halls, community forums, and heard directly from Missourians on the issues they are facing when confronted with Dementia. The Task Force identified concrete steps (that are more than attainable) which would directly impact these citizens, including education on early diagnosis, increasing respite grants for care providers who constantly put their health at risk to care for their loved ones, improving quality of care through continuing education of professionals and promoting workforce development, and coordinating care through a state coordinator. Re-establishing our task force is essential to continue such transparent, accountable, effective, up-to-date care to Missourians. It will ensure that we are able to put grants, like the CDC BOLD grant, to good use in our state. It will make sure that Missouri does not fall behind in its efforts to address Alzheimer's and all other dementia. Missourian's fight against the public health crisis that is Alzheimer's and Dementia is not set to expire anytime soon. Don't let one of the best tools to fight this crisis, the Task Force, expire as well. Please approve the Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force, and pass HB 2837.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL DONNELLY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-363-0261</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
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		ZIP: <b>63122</b>
EMAIL: <b>michaelseandonnelly@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>submissionOnly</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/12/2024 11:40 AM</b>
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I'm writing in support of this HB to further support those who care for those with dementia. Please consider this as a benefit to our state and it's citizens.