



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| BILL NUMBER: HB 511 | | DATE: 3/25/2025 | |
| COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health | | | |
| TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES | | | |
| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C."HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE | | PHONE NUMBER: | |
| BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: | | TITLE: | |
| ADDRESS: | | | |
| CITY: | | STATE: | ZIP: |
| EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com | ATTENDANCE: In-Person | | SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2025 11:53 PM |

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am in Support of this Bill. We need to have a Dementia Grant Services Coordinator in the Department of Public Health and Senior Services. Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease is a problem across our State.



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| WITNESS NAME | | | |
| REGISTERED LOBBYIST: | | | |
| WITNESS NAME: CATHERINE ROEHL | | PHONE NUMBER: 573-443-6922 | |
| REPRESENTING: ALZHEIMER's ASSOCIATION | | TITLE: DIRECTOR OF STATE AFFAIRS | |
| ADDRESS: 1601 E BROADWAY, SUITE 245 | | | |
| CITY: COLUMBIA | | STATE: MO | ZIP: 65201 |
| EMAIL: cjroehl@alz.org | ATTENDANCE: In-Person | SUBMIT DATE: 3/25/2025 9:47 AM | |
| THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. | | | |

Good afternoon. I'm Catherine Roehl, Director of State Affairs for the Greater Missouri Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. I want to start by saying thank you to Chair Stinnett and members of the committee for the opportunity to offer comments today. And thank you to Representative Wilson and Ingle for sponsoring and supporting this legislation. Alzheimer's is a public health crisis in Missouri that is devastating over 122,000 (11.2%) individuals aged 65 and older, with more than 223,000 Missourians providing care for loved ones with this disease. Numbers that are only expected to continue increasing. For those not familiar with what we do, the Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support, and research. In Missouri, we have two chapters that, together, serve all 115 counties. In the last 12-18 months, many advancements have been made related to diagnosis and treatments for Alzheimer's. But we cannot stop there. We need to ensure Missouri is preparing to be dementia-capable as the number of those affected continues to grow. The creation of a Dementia Service Coordinator position would be the first full time state employee focused on dementia care and policy. This position would aim to create a coordinated, statewide response to Alzheimer's and other dementias in Missouri, as recommended in the Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force. The Alzheimer's Association supports the bill language that places the position in Division of Senior and disability services, and differentiates it from the BOLD Grant coordinator. Many of the 29 states and Washington D.C. that have established a Dementia Service Coordinator also have a BOLD Grant. Having these two positions separate allows for the Dementia Service Coordinator to do have a broader scope of work, instead of being limited within public health, as outlined by the grant. This allows the two positions to work in tandem, as well. While Alzheimer's is a public health crisis, that is not the only way the state interacts with the disease. Areas such as job creation, Medicaid, and many others have impacts on dementia and need to have a broader scope than that of the BOLD grant is needed to coordinate the state response. Dementia is an incredibly costly disease to Missouri. The associated cost of caring for people with Alzheimer's in 2020 was \$973 million Medicaid dollars. A number that is only expected to increase as the disease's prevalence does. Making investments into infrastructure, such as the creation of this position, will help keep people aging at home longer and work to increase people's access to quality, coordinated care. The coordinator could also work on identifying gaps in services offered by the State and ensure that the existing programs are being utilized to their full potential and ensure Missourians receive the necessary support when dealing with this devastating disease. We ask for your support of this legislation that would help address this growing public health crisis at the state level and thank you for your consideration of this initiative to create a Dementia Service Coordinator position. I am happy to answer any questions.