

HB 5352 A Program to Address Alzheimer's Disease

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Dan Liparini, and I am writing to you today in support of House Bill 5352, sponsored by Representative Casimiro.

This bill proposes to create a permanent Dementia Services Coordinator position at the Department of Health. There are currently 30 states that have a state funded Dementia Services Coordinator.

This position would provide many valuable services to help our citizens who are caring for loved ones with this disease. There are more than 24,000 individuals living with Alzheimer's Disease in Rhode Island.

My older sister in another state just recently passed away due to complications from this disease. My nephew (Her son and his wife) had to try to work through a lot of agencies and doctors to determine how best to treat her, care for her and allow her to maintain a healthy and independent lifestyle. Unfortunately, guidance from state agencies was not coordinated, advice was of limited use and resources were not very robust.

Although from afar I could see what was happening and during a visit last year, I became very concerned, it wasn't until the police found her wandering around near midnight with no idea where she was, that she got a proper diagnosis and was committed to a facility to care for her properly.

Unfortunately, by this time she was so affected by this disease that she couldn't adapt to the facility and in the end had to be heavily sedated and ultimately hospice became involved for her final days. We can do better than this.

Please support this bill.

Sincerely,
Dan Liparini