

## House Bill 5352

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From belovedscribe <belovedscribe@proton.me>  
To HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov  
CC Rep. Cruz, Cherie L. <rep-cruz@rilegislature.gov>  
BCC Netto, Matthew <mnetto@aarp.org>  
Date Tuesday, February 25th, 2025 at 12:43

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### TO: House Health and Human Services Committee

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

I am writing to **support House Bill 5352** which is sponsored by Rep. Casimiro.

I have an adopted uncle who suffers with dementia. At times it is severe and other times minor. He vacillates between complete thought and memory erasure to perfect clarity on dates, times and places. He's forgotten where he lives and how to get home and at age 75 sometimes wanders around a couple of hours until he can recall where he needs to go. On one occasion, he even forgot that he was crossing the street and that he needed to look both ways after stepping off the curb.

The creation of a permanent Dementia Services Coordinator position at the Department of Health is crucial. The RI population of over 24,000 persons living with Alzheimer's Disease is proof enough that this position is **sorely needed**. Presently, 30 states already have a state-funded position.

This necessary work of overseeing and updating the State's plan, establishing and continuing relationships with all related state (and even national) agencies and community organizations is essential. This Coordinator's important work could prevent duplication of services by other organizations, identify and support much needed dementia-specific trainings and identify the services gaps within the state government. Plenty of work to justify the position.

We should not wait until those numbers of persons dealing with dementia increase. I urge you to pass **House Bill 5352**.

Thank you so much for your time, consideration and positive action on this Bill.

Janice (Woodlawn Neighborhood)

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Sent with Proton Mail secure email.