

For Immediate Release

Contact: Michael Bruhn, State Public Policy Director
(608) 318-4057 | mlbruhn@alz.org

**Alzheimer's Association Supports Important Wisconsin Legislation
for Family Caregivers**

Milwaukee, WI – September 17, 2019 – The Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin chapter strongly supports two pieces of legislation being introduced by Senator Patrick Testin (R-Stevens Point) and Representative Ken Skowronski (R-Franklin) to aid family caregivers in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Credit for Caring Act would provide a tax credit for family caregivers, helping to shrink the burden of the often devastating costs associated with being a family caregiver. The second piece of legislation, The Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act, would ensure that family caregivers are given accurate and updated information on issues such as medication management when their loved one is released from the hospital or discharged to another facility.

"Alzheimer's disease is the most expensive disease in America," states Michael Bruhn, State Director of Public Policy, Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin chapter. "For those individuals who wish to remain at home, the costs for their families can be overwhelming. The Wisconsin Credit for Caring Act and The CARE Act are important pieces of legislation that can empower family caregivers both financially and emotionally to be able to provide a better quality of life while maintaining the independence of their loved one in their own home."

According to the Alzheimer's Association's 2019 Facts and Figures Report, the total lifetime cost of care for someone with dementia was estimated at \$350,174 in 2018 dollars. The costs associated with family care make up 70 percent of lifetime dementia care costs, or upwards of \$245,000. Costs most closely identified with supporting a family member who lives at home include transportation, respite care, home modifications, skilled care services, home health aides, and assistive technology.

-more-



“These monetary estimates don’t even include the additional expense to a family caregiver who has lost income through reduced wages, or taken early retirement in order to care for a family member,” said Bruhn. “Historically, caregivers also experience their own increased health concerns and costs associated with the high stress of long-term caregiving. For many families, it amounts to a financial avalanche.”

About the Alzheimer’s Association

The Alzheimer’s Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer’s care, support and research whose mission is to eliminate Alzheimer’s disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. For more information about Alzheimer’s disease and local services visit www.alz.org/wi or call the Alzheimer’s Association 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900.