



To: Members of the House Human Services Committee
From: Martha Richardson, Executive Director & Co-chair, Governor's Commission on ADRD
Date: January 21, 2015

Re: testimony H.11, an act relating to the membership of the Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders.

Dear Committee Members,

More than 11,000 Vermonters are currently living with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder. Add in the number of caregivers and more than 41,000 Vermonters are dealing with the significant challenges that result from life with dementia. That is today. By 2025 we are projected to see a 55% change in the number of seniors living with dementia – reaching 17,000.

It is imperative that the Governor's Commission on Alzheimer's and Related Disorders assure that Vermont's State Plan on Dementia gains momentum in its implementation. Successful implementation requires the involvement and input of our community members.

The original statute for the Commission was put in place in 1999. Since that time two key organizations have been established that have significant connection and influence in the dementia field. They are the UVM Center on Aging, and the SASH program/Cathedral Square. In addition, Alzheimer's disease is being recognized as the fastest growing public health issue of our time. The Vermont Department of Health has begun working with the Commission and DAIL on public health promotion related to dementia.

The Commission members recognize that including representation from these organizations would add great value to the work of the Commission and implementation of our state plan. We hereby request that the statute be amended to include representation from these three organizations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Martha M. Richardson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Martha M. Richardson
Executive Director & Co-Chair Governor's Commission on ADRD