



January 12, 2018

H. 199 Testimony

Martha Richardson

Chair, Governor's Commission on ADRD

Thank you for allowing me to testify in reference to H. 199. This bill proposes to:

- **Reinstate two legislative members to the Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders.**

The Commission asks that representative from the legislature be reinstated. A representative from the House and Senate had been Commission members from the statutes inception. The legislators' knowledge and guidance in sharing Commission findings with members of the legislature at large was extremely helpful. The majority of Commission members are unfamiliar with government procedures and practices. The legislative guidance from a House and Senate member makes us more productive and efficient.

- **Repeal the term limits added to the statute in 2016**

The Commission requests that the term limit stipulations added to the statute be repealed. A few of our community organizations stipulated for membership, such as the Alzheimer's Association and the University of Vermont Center On Aging have limited staff resources to fulfill Commission duties. While the Commission understands the importance of term limits, we request that the Commission members have the flexibility to determine the limits rather than have them stipulated by the Statute.

In addition, the Commission on ADRD has submitted our FY17 Report to the Committee. It can be found at the following link:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/2017-ADRD-Report.pdf>.

In response to the report the Burlington Free Press published two articles in the Sunday January 7, 2018 edition. If you missed them, below are links to the articles.

[Vt. Strains to care for growing number of people with dementia](#)

[What caring for an elderly parent looks like in Vermont](#)

In addition, WCAX will be running a story on Alzheimer's disease and dementia next as well on Wednesday, January 17, 2014. With an eye to the concerns these stories raise, the Commission request that the House Human Services Committee hold a hearing in conjunction with the House Health Care and Senate Health & Welfare Committees during the 2018 session to address the concerns and suggestions laid out in the Commission report.

Thank you,

Martha Richardson

Executive Director, Alzheimer's Association, Vermont Chapter

Chair, Governor's Commission on Alzheimer's and Related Disorders