

S.242, An act relating to dementia respite and dementia capable programming

Today, **12,800** Vermonters living with Alzheimer's or another dementia are supported by **20,000** unpaid caregivers who provide **29 million** hours of care—valued at **\$773 million**.

## ***Increase Funding for the Dementia Respite Grant***

To help reduce the burden on caregivers, Vermont has the Dementia Respite Grant, which, when received, can assist a caregiver in acquiring alternative temporary care for their loved one, so that they can take a break while knowing that their loved one is safely cared for.

Caring for someone with dementia imposes immense financial, physical, and emotional burdens. In Vermont, 61.5% of unpaid dementia caregivers live with one or more chronic conditions, and more than 35% report depression.

Investing in respite is a proven, cost-effective prevention strategy that reduces long-term Medicaid expenditures while improving health outcomes. By increasing funds for the first time since 2003 and raising the individual cap, we can significantly increase the number of families receiving respite.

***Please support a \$500,000 increase to the Alzheimer's Respite Grant***

## ***Increase Dementia Capable Programming In Washington and Rutland Counties***

In Rutland and Washington Counties, Adult Day Programs were hit especially hard after the pandemic, and many were forced to close, leaving families without essential support.

Adult Days provide essential community engagement for those living with the disease and support caregivers by providing essential opportunities for respite.

The creation of a pilot program would provide grants through DAIL to community organizations to offer dementia-capable activities staffed by trained professionals and volunteers. Strengthening these services would help rebuild the local care network and ensure that Vermonters living with dementia—and their caregivers—have access to the support they need.

***Please support a \$100,000 pilot program for dementia-capable programming.***

For more information regarding the Alzheimer's Association's Legislative Priorities, please contact:

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