

Alzheimer's Association  
15 Constitution Drive, Suite 1G  
Bedford, NH 03110



March 23, 2026

The Honorable Debra DeSimone, Chair, Children and Family Law Committee  
Members of the House Children and Family Law Committee

RE: Support for SB 608, An Act relative to family caregiver support in certain programs and child care support for kinship caregivers

Dear Chairman DeSimone and Members of the Children and Family Law Committee:

On behalf of the many families facing Alzheimer's and dementia in New Hampshire, I write in **strong support of SB 608, An Act relative to family caregiver support in certain programs and child care support for kinship caregivers**. The enactment of this bill will help to support family caregivers across the Granite State, including those faced with the incredibly challenging role of caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia.

In New Hampshire, Alzheimer's affects over 26,500 individuals, and that figure is growing every day. To provide the necessary care that those living with the disease need, there are an **estimated 48,000 caregivers providing 77 million hours of unpaid care at an estimated economic value of more than \$1.8 billion**. The lives of these caregivers can be incredibly challenging, as they often assist their loved ones with one or more activities of daily living, including bathing, dressing, and eating, as well as multiple vital activities, such as paying bills, shopping, and transportation.

The weight of caregiving for a family member faced with any health challenge can be significant, but caregivers of those living with Alzheimer's or dementia often face even higher burdens. In order to provide this care to their loved one, caregivers of people with dementia are more likely to report substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties than caregivers of people without dementia. Data shows that **over 66% of caregivers of people with Alzheimer's or other dementia in New Hampshire have chronic health conditions, over 28% have depression, and almost 15% are in poor physical health**.

SB 608 will help mitigate the burden these caregivers face by directing the Department of Health and Human Services to seek federal approval to include family caregiver support services as allowable benefits under certain waiver programs, including the Choices for Independence (CFI) Waiver. These allowable benefits such as counseling, education and training, and peer support, can provide a lifeline to a family caregiver who is in desperate need of guidance and support in order to continue care for their loved one living with Alzheimer's or dementia in their home and community. This support can help to prevent instances of caregiver burnout and delay the need for those living with Alzheimer's or dementia to enter a more costly and intensive care setting.

By supporting those who care for their family members, the state will help to allow individuals who want to stay in their home the ability to do so. Therefore, **we ask for your support of SB 608 to provide that vital support to our Granite State Caregivers.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the importance of expanding support for caregivers of those living with Alzheimer's or other dementia in the Granite State. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jenny Horgan

State Government Relations Director

[jchorgan@alz.org](mailto:jchorgan@alz.org)