

Oregon Chapter

February 21, 2018

Portland
1650 NW Naito Parkway
Suite 190
Portland, OR 97209
503.416.0201 p

To: Chair Prozanski, Senate Committee on Judiciary
From: Sara Kofman, Public Policy Director, Alzheimer's Association Oregon Chapter

Cascade Coast
1000 Willagillespie Road
Suite 100
Eugene, OR 97401
541.345.8392 p

Re: Support for House Bill 4135 – Updating Oregon's Advance Care Directive

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association Oregon Chapter, we respectfully ask that you support the passage of House Bill 4135. This important legislation will update the current advance directive form in a manner that will encourage Oregon families to have and document more meaningful discussions about their health care values.

Central Oregon
777 NW Wall St.
Suite 104
Bend, OR 97701
541.317.3977 p

The Alzheimer's Association encourages people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias to complete an advance directive and talk with their loved ones and physicians about their choices. Engaging in these types of conversations early in the disease process is of the utmost importance for people with dementia to ensure that their wishes are known. The primary intent of this legislation is to encourage communication about values in treatment, and establish clarity in an individual's wishes.

Southern Oregon
1245 N. Riverside Ave.
Suite 23
Medford, OR 97501
541.772.2230 p

More than five million Americans are living with Alzheimer's or another dementia. As the size and proportion of the U.S. population aged 65 and older continue to increase, the number of Americans – and Oregonians – with Alzheimer's or another dementia will grow. As people with late-stage Alzheimer's disease near end of life and are no longer able to make their own decisions, families and loved ones must make choices on the person's behalf. When clear and complete advance directives are in place, family members and loved ones can take solace in knowing that they are respecting the person's wishes while maintaining his or her comfort and dignity.

Mid-Willamette Valley
Center 50+
2615 Portland Road NE
Room 2
Salem, OR 97301
971.273.0643

We respectfully urge you to vote yes on HB 4135. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important issue.