



February 11, 2020

To: Chair Salinas and Members of the House Committee on Health Care
From: Sara Kofman, Alzheimer's Association Oregon and SW Washington Chapter
Subject: Support for HB 4016 and the -3 Amendment

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 4016 and the -3 Amendment, legislation that maintains uniform care standards for long term care providers across Oregon and creates the Emergency Medical Services Innovation Pilot Project.

By age 80, 75 percent of those with Alzheimer's are expected to be admitted to a nursing home, compared with just four percent of the general population. Among those living in residential care settings, 42 percent are living with Alzheimer's or another dementia. As such, the Alzheimer's Association has significant concerns about individual municipalities developing regulatory structures for long term care as they may lack specific knowledge and expertise regarding the complexity of dementia care. We appreciate that providers in Oregon are already regulated by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The regulatory framework developed in Oregon by DHS and CMS takes into consideration the unique care needs of individuals with Alzheimer's and other types of dementia. Additionally, the Alzheimer's Association recognizes the profound benefit of emergency medical services for all Oregonians and applauds the effort in HB 4016 to create an Emergency Medical Services Innovation Pilot Project.

Alzheimer's is more than a disease about memory loss. Alzheimer's disease is fatal and is the sixth leading cause of death in our state. Nearly one in every three seniors who dies each year has Alzheimer's or another dementia. Today, an estimated 67,000 Oregonians are living with Alzheimer's disease. In less than 6 years – barring the development of medical breakthroughs to prevent, stop or slow Alzheimer's disease – this number is projected to grow by an astonishing 25%.

For these reasons, the Alzheimer's Association supports the passage HB 4016 and the -3 Amendment. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. Please contact Sara Kofman at skofman@alz.org with any questions.