
New York State Coalition

Statement of Support: A6976 (Barron)

Establishes an interagency council for the purpose of coordinated planning on issues related to older adults.

More than 5 million Americans and almost 400,000 New Yorkers have Alzheimer's disease. By 2025, that number is expected to rise to 460,000 – an increase of 18%. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia and is the 6th leading cause of death in the United States. The disease is fatal, and there is no treatment. Age is the biggest Alzheimer's risk factor. Ten thousand Baby Boomers turn 65 each day, increasing their risk for Alzheimer's and complicating their retirement plans.

In conjunction with multiple state departments and agencies, the Office for Aging and the Department of Health would develop a state plan on aging that strategizes current and future needs of older adults. The plan will assess current programs and services across multiple agencies, and encourage interagency cooperation for planning and improving outcomes. The plan will focus on several areas affecting older New Yorkers.

Almost 1 in 3 Americans over 75 have Alzheimer's – New York must get ahead of the concerns facing its aging population.

Given the staggering statistics surrounding Alzheimer's disease, it is imperative that thorough planning for the surge of cases in the Empire State be included as part of this plan. A diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease is far-reaching, affecting the individual, the family, the caregiver, the community, health care providers, care facilities, etc. The state needs to continue to carefully prepare for the impact of Alzheimer's disease.

The Coalition supports A6976 (Barron) to create an interagency council to coordinate planning on issues related to older adults, and strongly recommends that the Alzheimer's Association, NYS Coalition has a seat at the table to lend its expertise on Alzheimer's and dementia.

About the Coalition

The Alzheimer's Association, New York State Coalition is the leading statewide organization advocating for all New Yorkers affected by Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The Coalition advances public policy, increases concern and awareness of Alzheimer's disease and the services available through the Alzheimer's Association, and provides and enhances care and support. We have a diverse and bilingual staff of specialists and master's-level clinicians who work constituents in person or over the phone and through our free 24-hour Helpline.