

Statement of Opposition: A6342 (Cymbrowitz)/ S6080 (Serino)

Establishes a dementia and Alzheimer's disease program database

Bills A6342 (Cymbrowitz) / S6080 (Serino) would establish a database of dementia and Alzheimer's programs in conjunction with the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Office for the Aging. According to the bill, the database would catalog programs shown to be successful in supporting and treating individuals with dementia and be updated at least annually.

The Alzheimer's Association, New York State Coalition (Coalition) advocates on behalf of the 390,000 New Yorkers living with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association is the leader in Alzheimer's care and support and offers information and referral services for individuals affected by Alzheimer's and dementia through its free 24-hour Helpline and website — www.alz.org. There is a "community resource finder" on alz.org, and website visitors (and Helpline callers) receive information about the disease, as well as the most up-to-date information about community resources, including:

- consumer and professional educational programs
- one-on-one care consultations
- support groups and safety services, and
- referrals to third-party care providers in New York State, including long-term care facilities, medical providers and respite care options.

Additionally, the information called for in this legislation already exists on the Department of Health's website, which has an interactive county map of services and respite. While the Alzheimer's Association applauds all efforts to reach more New Yorkers with dementia, the Coalition encourages public awareness of Alzheimer's and related services that are not duplicative and could reach a broader audience. **A database created by bills A6342 (Cymbrowitz) / S6080 (Serino) would duplicate already established State efforts and systems, at significant cost to the State. As such, the Coalition opposes this legislation.**

About the Coalition

The Alzheimer's Association, New York State Coalition ("Coalition") is the leading statewide organization advocating for all New Yorkers affected by Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. To achieve this mission, we advance public policy, increase concern and awareness of Alzheimer's disease and the services available through the Alzheimer's Association, and provide and enhance care and support.