

## MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

February 13, 2017

**S.1636 – Golden (On Senate Investigations and Government Operations Agenda 2/14/17)**  
**A.5436 – Englebright (In Assembly Ways and Means Committee)**

*AN ACT to amend the tax law, in relation to establishing the “caregiver’s assistance act.”*

The Coalition of New York State Alzheimer’s Association Chapters advocates on behalf of the 390,000 New Yorkers living with Alzheimer’s disease and their caregivers. As the statewide leader in representing all New Yorkers affected by Alzheimer’s disease, the Coalition writes this memo in *support* of S.1636 (Golden)/ A.5436 (Englebright).

This bill would create an elder care tax credit to be claimed by those taxpayers with care expenses incurred for the care of a senior family member. The credit would be in the amount of 20% of qualified care expenses or \$555 dollars, whichever is less. The legislation also defines a qualifying senior family member and qualified care expenses.

Over 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s disease, and as many as 16 million are projected to have the disease in 2050. The cost of caring for those with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias is estimated to have totaled \$236 billion in 2016, increasing to \$1.1 trillion (in today’s dollars) by mid-century.

In New York State alone, there are currently 1.1 million unpaid Alzheimer’s and dementia caregivers. In 2016, they provided 1.2 billion hours of care valued at \$14.2 billion. As New York’s population continues to age, and more individuals are diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias, the amount of time and money spent by caregivers will only continue to grow.

Individuals caring for family members with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias willingly and freely give of their time to assist however they can, but this can take a toll. Caregiver expenses add up quickly, and are often incurred by those who are already burdened by many other bills and expenditures. In fact, it is estimated that more than one in five of these individuals are members of the “sandwich generation,” caring for both someone with dementia and a child or grandchild, which can be prohibitively expensive. A tax credit to ease the burden for qualified expenses sustained in the course of providing care to a loved one with Alzheimer’s disease or other dementias would be extremely valuable to those who give of their time and efforts.

For the above reasons, the Coalition of New York State Alzheimer’s Association Chapters *supports* this legislation.