

PRIORITY #2: Improve access to assisted living for low-income seniors with Alzheimer's and dementia

Alzheimer's disease and assisted living in NYS

- ❖ Approximately 40% of the 45,000 New Yorkers in assisted living (AL) facilities in NY have Alzheimer's disease or other dementias.
- ❖ AL is often the most preferred setting, but it is overwhelmingly private pay and too expensive for too many.
- ❖ The only Medicaid option for assisted living for those with dementia is NY's **Assisted Living Program (ALP)**. These beds are inadequately apportioned throughout the state. Currently, 11 counties do not have any ALP beds.
- ❖ Too many people with Alzheimer's and dementia then enter skilled nursing facilities because they can't afford private pay AL and there are not enough ALP beds available.
- ❖ Skilled nursing is costly and often unnecessary for people with mild to moderate Alzheimer's. It would be less expensive for the State to reimburse for assisted living than to pay for skilled nursing facilities/homes.

1. Increase ALP capacity

- ❖ Currently, NYS determines number of beds and locations to "open," and facilities have to wait and react.
- ❖ We support changing application process to a rolling Certificate of Need (CON) process to allow all facilities to compete and to make a case for the need in their area.
- ❖ Language has been submitted and is under consideration in the FY 2017-18 budget.

Please ask member to support this change to open more ALP beds in the budget

2. Create pilot payment voucher project

- ❖ Seniors with dementia in AL who spend down private funds usually must apply for Medicaid and shift to skilled nursing – at considerable cost to NYS.
- ❖ Vouchers would make up the difference between a resident's possible contribution and the cost of AL – which reduces the state's Medicaid burden and keeps those with dementia in the most preferred setting.

Ask legislators to support this concept and consider sponsoring a bill to create voucher program and create a task force to establish the parameters by this Fall.