



## Senator Jason Crowell The Crowell Connection

Senator Jason Crowell – Serving Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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# November National Alzheimer's Awareness Month

All of us have been touched by the devastating disease that is Alzheimer's. Over the past 15 years, we have learned much about Alzheimer's, but we still do not have a cure for the progressive and fatal brain disease. Calling attention to the number of individuals affected, promoting research to treat the symptoms, and ultimately working to find a cure is the reason November has been designated as National Alzheimer's Awareness Month.



Scientists understand how Alzheimer's attacks the brain, and they have many ideas on how to stop its progression. Treatments for symptoms, combined with the right services and support, can make life better for the

millions of Americans living with Alzheimer's. We've learned most of what we know about this disease in the last 15 years. There is an encouraging worldwide effort under way to find better ways to treat the disease, delay its onset, or prevent it from developing.

The purpose of this month is to recognize the dignity of the men and women living with Alzheimer's, acknowledge the family members and caretakers of those with the disease, and continue our work to find a cure. As a community, we can work together to make sure those in our area grappling with this disease know they are not alone in this fight to manage and ultimately prevent Alzheimer's.

Families struggling with Alzheimer's need the support of their friends and their community. The Alzheimer's Association offers support groups for caregivers; training for people for want to lead support groups; and opportunities for people



in the early stages of Alzheimer's to support one another with visits or phone calls. They offer a 24-hour, toll-free hotline for information, referral, and support at 1-800-272-3900. Resources are also available through the Southeast Missouri office of the Alzheimer's Association in Cape Girardeau. They can be contacted at 573-332-8170.

Families can also receive support through state-funded programs. The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) runs the Safe Return® Program for individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease who may be at risk of leaving their homes. Individuals registered in the database receive a

medical bracelet, necklace, key chain, wallet card or clothing tag for easy identification. DHSS can also help families find a program designed specifically towards the needs of residents with Alzheimer's disease. The department provides a directory and guide for special care units in the state. Information on both of these programs is available at [www.dhss.mo.gov](http://www.dhss.mo.gov) or by calling 573-751-6400.

The fight against Alzheimer's disease can be won with commitment and involvement. It may seem like a relentless disease, but we can make a difference in the lives of those affected by Alzheimer's.

### **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: [jcrowell@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.

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