



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

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Recognizing Alzheimer's Awareness Week

Week of July 6-12 Helps Address Nation's 6th Leading Cause of Death

Alzheimer's is a very progressive and fatal brain disease. According to the [Alzheimer's Association](#), approximately 5.3 million citizens in the United States are living with Alzheimer's, and every 70 seconds, someone is diagnosed with this devastating disease. Alzheimer's attacks and destroys brain cells, resulting in problems with memory, thinking, and behavior that is severe enough to affect a person's every-day routine — from going to work, continuing life-long hobbies, and even having a social life. Sadly, this disease grows worse over time and ends with the ultimate diagnosis — death.

Alzheimer's has no current cure and has numerous effects to the patient and their loved ones. Alzheimer's and its related symptoms, including dementia, triple health care costs for Americans age 65 and older. The direct and indirect costs of Alzheimer's and its related symptoms costs Medicare, Medicaid, and other related businesses more than \$148 billion each year.

Treatment for Alzheimer's symptoms, in tandem with the right services and support, can help those diagnosed with this disease continue to carry on with their day-to-day activities. This past session, the General Assembly recognized the continuing need to study this disease. With the governor's signature, [House Bill 272](#) will establish within the [Department of Health and Senior Services](#) an Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force.

This 18-member task force will assess the current and future impact of Alzheimer's disease and related symptoms on Missourians; examine the existing services and resources for those diagnosed with dementia, their families, and caregivers; and develop recommendations to respond to the escalating public health situation regarding Alzheimer's disease. The task force

will submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and the governor no later than Nov. 15, 2010.

With the creation of this task force, our state will join a world-wide effort to find new and better ways to treat this disease that affects so many individuals. For more information about the warning signs and stages of this disease and the progress of Alzheimer's research, please visit the Alzheimer's Association website at www.alz.org. And if you have questions about any other legislative issues, please feel free to contact me at (573) 751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.mo.gov.

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.

