

AB 2048

Alzheimer's Partnering with Your Doctor

Assemblymember
Monique Limón
37TH DISTRICT



THIS BILL

Assembly Bill 2048 directs the California Department of Aging to update informational tools to assist individuals who are experiencing cognitive impairment, and their caregivers, in communicating with health care providers before and after receiving a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.

BACKGROUND

Currently, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias directly impact 2.2 million Californians. Last year, the Medi-Cal program spent \$3.9 billion on beneficiaries living with Alzheimer's, yet families paying out-of-pocket for long-term services and supports incurred the bulk of costs.

This year, the state has convened an Alzheimer's Prevention and Preparedness Taskforce, and a Masterplan on Aging. Historically, the state has created a network of ten Alzheimer's Disease Centers, and has funded tools to help individuals navigate our managed healthcare systems.

One specific tool, "Partnering with Your Doctor", **has not been updated since 2003**. This bill builds off these efforts by updating this tool, ensuring that it remains culturally relevant for our growing diverse aging population.

PURPOSE

Without a timely diagnosis, hundreds of thousands of Californians are without information to guide medical treatment, care planning, referral to long-term services and supports, and health care decision-making. For example, simply improving early detection and timely diagnosis of Alzheimer's is projected to save the nation \$2.3 trillion in Medicaid costs. Yet, a clinician has formally diagnosed less than half of all Californians affected.

With the population directly impacted by Alzheimer's in California projected to grow by a staggering 25 percent in just over five years, we must do more today to care for this growing population. It is incumbent on our state to make pragmatic and reasonable improvements to existing tools designed to support those with dementia.

SUPPORT

Alzheimer's Association (sponsor)

OPPOSITION

None

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