

# 2024 POLICY PRIORITIES

## Expanding Access to Alzheimer's Treatments

*For the first time ever, the FDA approved two Alzheimer's treatments to slow the progression of the disease - and several more are in the pipeline! It is crucial that these new treatments are accessible to those living with the disease. Illinois can lead the way by passing legislation to ensure state employees have access to these groundbreaking FDA-approved Alzheimer's treatments through their healthcare plans.*

## Effective Advance Directives Across Healthcare Settings

*Illinois law already allows residents to make advance directives, allowing individuals to express how they want medical decisions made, should they not be able to make them personally in the future. However, there is currently no repository for these documents - leaving providers unable to access these advance directives if the patient or family is unable to share them. Thus, Illinois should create a state repository allowing patients, families, and healthcare providers to securely and easily access these vital documents.*

## Open Our Eyes to Alzheimer's and Dementia

*After passing legislation to create the Dementia Coordinator position, the Association worked with the Coordinator and the Illinois Department of Public Health to allocate vital state dollars to not only implement our Alzheimer's state plan, but also to leverage new federal funding. With expanded resources, we must now develop cutting edge statewide campaigns to help Illinois residents access information about brain health, obtaining a diagnosis, resources and life-altering treatments. In our diverse state, this campaign will have a special focus on underserved black, brown, and rural communities.*

## Implementing Necessary Nursing Home Staffing

*A coalition including the Alzheimer's Association worked to remove unacceptable levels of staffing levels in Illinois nursing homes. This current Illinois law requires a basic level of staffing to ensure safety and quality care for both residents and staff. However, enforcement of this law (through fines for violator facilities) has been stalled repeatedly. This is unacceptable. Illinois must stand strong for residents and ensure nursing home staffing ratio enforcement begins as now currently scheduled in 2025.*

## Supporting Family Caregivers

*In 2022 and 2023, the General Assembly acted to provide funding for family caregiver services through the Area Agencies on Aging, including respite, training, and other support services. With nearly 400,000 people in Illinois providing care to a loved one living with dementia, caregiver support services have never been more important. Thus, the Alzheimer's Association is supporting \$6 million in funding for family caregiver services in the FY2025 state budget.*



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