

# alzheimer's association

## **Testimony by Christy Kovel to the Human Services Committee in Support of Raised Bill #414-An Act Concerning the State-Funded Home Care Program for the Disabled and Personal Care Assistance Program for the Disabled**

**February 28, 2008**

Senator Harris, Representative Villano, and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Christy Kovel and I am the Senior Director of Public Policy and Communications for the Alzheimer's Association.

**I am here today to testify in support of Raised Bill #414-An Act Concerning the State-Funded Home Care Program for the Disabled and Personal Care Assistance Program for the Disabled.**

The Alzheimer's Association is a donor supported, non-profit organization serving the needs of families, health care professionals, and those individuals who are affected with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The Association provides information and resources, support groups, education and training, and a 24 hours, 7 Day a week Helpline.

Currently in CT, there are approximately 68,000 individuals who are affected with Alzheimer's Disease. Approximately 10% of individuals who are diagnosed with Alzheimer's are under the under the age of 65. Many people with early-onset of this disease are in their 40's and 50's. People with early onset dementia who are under the age of 65

do not qualify for the CT. Home Care Program for Elders. Subsequently, this results in limited resources for families seeking supports to assist them. The only option for these families has been this pilot program for the disabled. The progression of symptomatic challenges of those individuals who have early onset Alzheimer's disease is often much more rapid than those individuals who are older. Further complicating this issue is the stage of life that the person is in, often still with children who are in school, and having other financial commitments to deal with.

The Alzheimer's Association supports expanding the pilot program from fifty to seventy persons to allow more persons with early onset Alzheimer's the opportunity to access much needed home care services and supports. Therefore we support this Bill #414 as an additional resource to our constituency.