Senator Toni Harp and Rep. John Geragosian

February 11, written testimony Appropriations Committee
Re: Alzheimer's Respite Care Program

The objective of this grant would allow not only myself but my mother in law more freedom and comfort spending time with others of the same age and illness and I believe she would benefit from possibly an Adult Day Care Program or someone to come into the home, routinely which is key for an Alzheimer's patient, which her insurance does not cover at all, with transportation being a part of this with her being confined to a wheel chair. The grant that we are filing for Alzheimer's Respite Care Program would extend my mother in law's specialized care while she continues to live at home and it would allow me the time to finish projects that have been postponed due to round the clock care that I provide.

As my mother in law's caregiver for the last seven years, I do not work; I have a commitment to making sure she has the best care possible 24-7. I am grateful for every single day that I make the choice to do this. I know, without any doubt, that even on my mothers in laws bad days she knowing she's in her own home with family and I making a positive difference and this knowledge makes it all worthwhile. It is with my positive efforts that enhances the quality of my mother' in law daily outlook every day we have together as a family.

Not only is my mother in law affected with Alzheimer's, she is also 85 years old, wheel chair bound but also suffers from diabetes and heart disease. It is my hopes that treatments and technology will become more advanced every day and will someday allow our loved ones a better quality of life, and not to suffer from this horrible degrading disease.

In conclusion this program will allow me to cope with the emotional and physical exhaustion of caring for my mother in law. Not only myself but my husband (full time employed) and son (full time collage student) as well, whom play a big role in her care when able as well. Respite care is the light at the end of the tunnel and will help delay nursing home care and is far less expensive than the alternative. Nursing homes will most likely exceed $70,000 a year. Respite care equates to both taxpayer savings and a better quality of life for the Alzheimer's patient. This economic comparison doesn't even touch on health of the caregiver.

Many thanks for allowing me to exercise my thoughts and reasons that I support the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program, and thank you for the opportunity to profess before you today.

Should you have any questions or concerns kindly contact me at 203-372-1738.
I look forward to your reply.

Kind regards,

Brenda Stan