

February 11, 2010

Chairpersons Sen. Toni Harp and Rep. John Geragosian and Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee my name is Teresa Hall. I am writing today **in support of the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program and ask you to retain the line item funding for this essential program.**

My 83 year old father Gaetano Del Giudice, has been living Alzheimer's disease for the past ten years. My mother who is now 76 years old has been his primary caregivers and by his side each and every day. It is safe to say SHE is the one who is suffering with this disease as a caregiver. The magnitude of mental and physical stress needed to cope and care for someone with Alzheimer's cannot be easily described unless you experience it first hand as a caregiver.

The grant that we were awarded from the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program previously helped my mother by allowing my father to go to an Adult Day care program three times a week. This was the breather she needed to recharge. As his illness continues decline and she is not able to take him to Adult Day Care any longer, the Respite Services are helping her by having a home care aid come in three times a week to bathe my father since my mother no longer has the physical capability to do this as her own health is declining. This has removed one less burden from her as it important to her that my father's hygiene is kept up and he is as comfortable as possible. She uses this time to just take breather, run errands or go to her own dr. appointments.

This program has helped to keep my father home for as long as possible which is where my mother would like him to be. My mother like so many other caregivers, have given up their life and livelihood to care for loved one, and as hard as this commitment is, the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program has helped relieve some of the burden.

Thank you for listening to reasons that I support the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program, and I would be happy to answer any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Teresa M. Hall