

Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6912

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA

Title: ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Vote Date: 3/4/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/20/2025

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Aging Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill establishes a 14 member Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Advisory Council within the Dept. of Aging and Disability Services. The council must examine the needs of residents living with Alzheimer's Disease or dementia, the ability of providers and institutions to meet their needs and available services for them and their family members and create a state Alzheimer's plan by January 1, 2027. The plan must be updated every four years.

JFS Language (LCO 5805) It strikes the underlying bill and replaces the council with a task force on the subject. It has no end date and must report annually to the committee of cognizance. Additionally, it adds a representative of a homemaker-companion agency to the members who has direct experience working with Alzheimer's or dementia.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Dept. of Aging and Disability Services, Ms. Amy Porter, Commissioner: She advises that much of the work contemplated by this bill is already being accomplished by the CT Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) Coalition. In 2021 the DPH received a grant from the CDC titled Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure to develop a state plan for ADRD. While we agree and support the committee's goal of ensuring this work is sustained beyond the life of the BOLD grant, it provides an opportunity to create that structure and the coalition is actively working on governance. They think that is premature to establish another council at this point and ADS recommends delaying action.

Dept of Aging and Disability Services, Ms. Mairead Painter, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman:

Establishing an advisory council dedicated to examining and addressing challenges would further enhance the work under the grant that has been started to assist individuals living with Alzheimer's and dementia to receive the quality care, support, and services they need and deserve. While she fully supports the establishment of a council, she has some concern related to the administration of it, because if located within a state agency the ability to advocate and make requests on behalf of the council may be limited.

Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity, Mr. Michael Werner, Lead Policy Analyst:

They offered their testimony in **support** of this proposal. Establishing an Alzheimer's disease and Related Dementias (ARD) council would address challenges by improving data accuracy, enhancing early detection protocols, and strengthening critical caregiver support systems, ensuring the state develops the infrastructure needed to address this growing health issue. This bill represents a critical step forward in addressing Connecticut's growing Alzheimer's crisis.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

LeadingAge, Connecticut, Ms. Mag Morelli, President: They are pleased to provide testimony in **support** of this bill. Over 90 thousand older adults in the state are currently living with the disease. Their members across the country are focused on developing services and supports that meet the needs of those living with these diseases.

Connecticut Assisted Living Association, Mr. Chris Carter, President: They submitted testimony in **support** of this proposal. They annually support legislative proposals which seek to promote and expand Alzheimer's Respite Care programs and they are looking forward to learning more about this bill and they would be happy to service as a resource as this bill evolves if needed.

AgingCT, Ms. Maureen McIntyre, CEO: They **support** this legislation and note that it ensures that the Dept. of Aging and Disability Services has the proper guidance and legislative mandate with which to complete a State Alzheimer's Plan.

AARP Connecticut, Ms. Natalie Shurtleff, Assoc. State Director, Advocacy and Community Outreach: They **support** the establishment of an Alzheimer's and Dementia Advisory Council that will work to address the needs of persons living with dementia as well as their family caregivers.

Home Care Association of America, Ms. Marlene Chickerella, Chair: Her comments are in **support** of this proposal, but they offer a suggestion for an amendment. This would be to add a member to the advisory council who represents homemaker-companion agencies and is experienced in providing services and support to persons with Alzheimer's disease or dementia.

Alzheimer's Association, Connecticut Chapter:

Ms. Tonya Maurer Caregiver/Care-Advocate

Ms. Ginny Hanbridge, Executive Director

Ms. Christy Kovel, Director of Public Policy

They are in **support** of this bill as a designated Advisory Council brings a smaller group of relevant agencies and private sector stakeholders together, for the purpose of identifying our state-specific needs and policy recommendations identified in the Alzheimer's Plan to address the disease.

Home Matters Caregiving, Ms. Asha Samal, Owner: She is **supportive** of this and any bills that would be a benefit to our seniors.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None submitted.

Reported by: Richard Ferrari, Assistant Clerk Date: 3/13/2025