

## **CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All Legislators

**FROM:** Sen. Rachael Cabral-Guevara

Rep. Dean Kaufert

**DATE:** March 3, 2025

**RE:** Co-Sponsorship of LRB-1910/1, relating to financial eligibility for the Alzheimer's family and caregiver support program

**DEADLINE:** Thursday, March 13th, 2025 at NOON

The Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) helps Wisconsin families provide care for loved ones at home, improving quality of life and reducing the burden of health care costs. Due to outdated eligibility criteria, counties administering the program are struggling to spend the funds the state provides. Even more concerning, recent changes in the federal code will cause Wisconsin to lose access to the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP), which requires state or local matching funds that do not limit eligibility through means testing.

**Our bill eliminates the outdated income cap eligibility barrier for the program. Without this cap, counties will have the flexibility to utilize the full amount provided to them by the state, maintain access to the federal matching program, and still implement policies that prioritize individuals with the greatest need for these critical resources.**

The Wisconsin Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources manages the AFCSP, which provides funds to each county and tribe for:

- Caregivers to acquire services and goods to care for someone with Alzheimer's and

- Counties to expand and create new services for people with dementia.

An individual is only eligible to receive these county resources if:

- A doctor provides a statement confirming a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or another type of irreversible dementia
- The joint income of the person with Alzheimer's disease and that person's spouse is \$48,000 per year or less.

AFCSP covers services needed to keep a person with Alzheimer's living in the community. The maximum amount of services an individual in the program may receive is capped at \$4,000. Examples of goods or services include:

- Adult daycare
- In-home help
- Respite care
- Support groups and self-care
- Chair lifts
- Nutrition supplements

When the program was created by the legislature in 1987, the original income eligibility was capped at \$40,000. Adjusted for inflation, the income cap would be roughly \$114,000 today. Last year alone, ten percent of the funds allocated by the state went unspent by counties due to the limited number of individuals falling under the income cap. Counties only expect the number of individuals under the income cap to shrink. **Given the new federal code and the flexibility for counties to utilize these resources for individuals with the greatest need, the common-sense solution is to eliminate the cap in state statute.**

The bill is supported by the Alzheimer's Association, Wisconsin Chapter, the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. (GWAAR), the Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA), and the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN).

If you would like to cosponsor this bill, please contact Rep. Kaufert's office at 237-9153 or Sen. Cabral-Guevara's office at 266-0718, by **Thursday, March 13th, 2025 at noon**. All co-sponsors will be added to both versions of the bill unless otherwise specified.