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Proponent Testimony for HB 2114 – Establishing the Senior Care Task Force

Jamie Gideon, Kansas Director of Public Policy, Alzheimer's Association

March 23, 2021

Thank you, Chair Hilderbrand and members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, for affording me the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2114, Establishing the Senior Care Task Force.

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. In Kansas, we have two chapters which together serve all 105 counties.

This task force will serve as a central body to coordinate engagement with older Americans and champion their priorities. In addition, the Alzheimer's Association views this task force as a positive step toward addressing the needs of those with dementia in Kansas. The first topic addressed in the bill is "The provision of care for seniors in the state of Kansas who suffer from Alzheimer's disease, dementia or other age-related mental health conditions".

In Kansas there are 55,000 who are currently living with Alzheimer's and 85,000 unpaid caregivers who are taking care of them. These numbers will continue to grow because the greatest risk for getting dementia is aging. According to the Center for Economic Development and Business Research through Wichita State, currently we have 533,000 Kansans who are over the age of 65. By 2050, there will be 857,268 Kansans over 65 which is a 61% increase!

I ask for your support for HB 2114 which will help address the needs of our growing population of seniors in Kansas.

Thank you committee. I will take questions at the appropriate time.