

Minnesota-North Dakota Chapter

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March 13, 2023

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee:

The Alzheimer's Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting people living with Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of dementia. We are writing today to share our support for SF 1637. This important legislation raises the MA spenddown threshold to 133% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG).

For Minnesotan's living with dementia and their caregivers, it's expensive to be poor when you need Home and Community-Based Services. In order to safely live in the community instead of a costly placement in a nursing home, a family of two must spend down to an annual income of \$19,720 in order to be eligible for Medical Assistance. While it's important to target scarce resources to those most in need, living with such a limited income is challenging and forces many Minnesotan's to make extremely tough financial choices.

SF 1637 takes a much-needed step in the right direction by modestly raising the spenddown threshold to 133% of the FPG or \$26,227 for a family of two. Nobody is getting rich with this change, but it will allow Minnesotans to purchase healthier food, pay their rent on-time, or cover the increasing costs of heating their home. Thank you to Sen. Fateh and the Human Services Finance Committee for supporting this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Sam Smith
State Affairs Manager
Alzheimer's Association