

Senator Bruce Anderson Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2209 95 University Avenue W. St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Anderson:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota chapter, I am writing to express our support for Senate File 664, legislation that would include people with "dementia, a traumatic brain injury, Alzheimer's disease, or other cognitive impairments" in the state's missing and endangered persons program. This critical measure will help ensure the swift location and recovery of individuals with dementia who go missing, protecting their safety and well-being.

More than 100,000 Minnesotans are living with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia, and six in ten of them will wander at some point. When a person with dementia is determined to be missing, every moment matters, especially in a state with weather like Minnesota. Their condition puts them at high risk of injury or harm, making it essential that law enforcement and the community can mobilize quickly to locate them.

Making this inclusion to the state's endangered persons program will improve response times, increase public awareness, and ultimately save lives.

We appreciate your leadership in advancing this important legislation, and we urge your colleagues to support its passage. Thank you for your commitment to protecting vulnerable Minnesotans and their families.

Sincerely,

Robert Freeman Vice-President, Public Policy Alzheimer's Association, Minnesota-North Dakota Chapter