



ASSEMBLY MEMBER
Kevin Mullin
DISTRICT 22



AB 2583 – Alzheimer’s & Dementia Peace Officer Training

PURPOSE

AB 2583 aims to improve the ability of first responders and peace officers to engage with individuals suffering from dementia and Alzheimer’s by providing them the tools and training needed to effectively interact with those living with dementia.

BACKGROUND & PROBLEM

Dementia is the loss or decline in memory and other cognitive functions. Alzheimer’s is the most common type of dementia, accounting for approximately 70% of cases. In California alone there are approximately 690,000 individuals living with Alzheimer’s, the most of any state. Among those who develop Alzheimer’s; women, African-Americans, and members of the Latinx community are at increased risk.

The number of individuals in California who are diagnosed with Alzheimer’s is projected to increase substantially. According to the Governor’s Master Plan for Aging (Jan. 2021), “Ten years from now, California will be home to 10.8 million people age 60 and over – nearly twice as many as in 2010.” Similarly, the prevalence of Californian’s living with Alzheimer’s is projected to increase by nearly 22%.

This has not been an invisible problem. SB 491 (Alquist, 2008) established the Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee within the California Health and Human Services Agency. That committee produced the California State Plan for Alzheimer’s Disease: 2011-2021. Additionally, the Governor’s Office has given significant attention to the issue of dementia and Alzheimer’s,

establishing the Alzheimer’s Prevention & Preparedness Task Force in 2019.

While significant time, energy, and resources have been dedicated to addressing Alzheimer’s-related challenges, one area that can be improved is better support for our first responders and peace officers when they respond to calls involving individuals with Alzheimer’s and dementia. Currently, there is very little dedicated training on identifying and interacting with individuals with Alzheimer’s. This is despite the fact that nearly 70% of those diagnosed will experience ‘wandering’, which can result in peace officers being called to respond. The International Association of Chief’s of Police states on their website that “It’s not a question of whether law enforcement will be dealing with Alzheimer’s disease, but rather when we’ll encounter Alzheimer’s disease, and how we’ll respond.”

SOLUTION

AB 2583 will require the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to revise their training to include instruction on how to appropriately interact with persons with Alzheimer’s or dementia. AB 2583 will ensure that by January 1, 2030 all peace officers hired prior to July 1, 2029 have received training on interacting with individuals with Alzheimer’s.

Including this specific training for peace officers will help California achieve the goals laid out in the Master Plan for Aging and facilitate more compassionate engagement between peace

officers and individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia in their communities.

SUPPORT

- Alzheimer's Association (Sponsor)
- Alzheimer's Los Angeles
- Alzheimer's Orange County
- Alzheimer's San Diego
- NAACP – San Mateo Branch
- California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A)
- California Public Defenders Association
- San Francisco Women's Cancer Network
- Bay Area Community Health Advisory Council (BACHAC)
- Peninsula Solidarity Cohort
- Biogen
- The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration
- Villages of San Mateo

STAFF CONTACT

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