



THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPRESENTATIVE KATE HOGAN
THIRD MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
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For Immediate Release:
February 9, 2018

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House Passes Massachusetts Alzheimer's and Dementia Legislation

Bill will coordinate state efforts to address Alzheimer's disease and aid patients and families dealing with related dementias

(BOSTON) – Representative Kate Hogan joined her colleagues in the House of Representatives to pass legislation that establishes an Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Council. The bill also requires the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) to conduct an assessment on existing state efforts and implement an integrated state plan to address the disease.

There are currently 120,000 individuals in Massachusetts with Alzheimer's or a related dementia, and experts predict the prevalence of Alzheimer's will increase 25 percent in the next decade. Currently, more than 300,000 people in Massachusetts act as caregivers to one these patients. In 2017, Medicaid costs for caring for people with the disease totaled \$1.55 billion.

“Whether a patient, caregiver, family member, or loved one – Alzheimer's or dementia has touched nearly every one of our lives,” said Representative Kate Hogan (D-Stow). “As the medical community grapples with this public health crisis, I'm thankful that the legislation passed by the House of Representative lays out a statewide strategy to address it head-on.”

In an effort to strengthen a patient's support network and improve communication, physicians will be granted increased flexibility when sharing medical information with a patient's family throughout diagnosis and treatment. These changes operate within the existing legal framework of federal and state medical information privacy laws. The legislation also creates minimum-training standards for elder protective services social workers and requires a new, one-time continuing education requirement for physicians, physician's assistants, registered nurses, and practical nurses, which will include training in the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's. Several of these provisions originated in the Joint Committee on Public Health, which Representative Hogan co-chairs, before being incorporated into the omnibus bill.

The Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Council, established in the legislation, will be required to meet quarterly and will provide EOHHS and the Legislature with recommendations on Alzheimer's policy, an evaluation of state-funded research, care, and programming, and any outcomes of such efforts. EOHHS will create an integrated state plan to facilitate the coordination of government efforts while ensuring that appropriate resources are maximized and leveraged.

The legislation also requires hospitals to implement an operational plan for recognizing and managing individuals with dementia. Hospitals must complete and implement their operational plan by October 1, 2021, and provide the Department of Public Health with the plan as requested.

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Representative Kate Hogan

Representative Kate Hogan represents the Third Middlesex District, which includes the towns of Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow. She currently serves as the House Chair on the Joint Committee on Public Health. She also serves as Chair of the Library Legislative Caucus and Co-Chair of the Legislature's Elder Caucus. Rep. Hogan can be reached by phone at 617-722-2130 or by email at Kate.Hogan@MAhouse.gov. You can also connect with Rep. Hogan on Facebook ([facebook.com/kate.hogan.948](https://www.facebook.com/kate.hogan.948)) or Twitter ([@repkatehogan](https://twitter.com/repkatehogan)).



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