

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
PROCLAMATION

California is taking on the challenge of Alzheimer's and driving rates down, even as more people live longer and face the risk of dementia. Bold initiatives to prevent, diagnose, treat, and support individuals and families are making a real impact in California, and the state is committed to continuing our leadership and strong partnerships to support the 720,000 people currently living with the disease, and their families.

Those of us familiar with this progressive, degenerative disease with no cure know the toll it takes by erasing precious memories, reducing cognitive abilities, and draining financial resources and independence. We know from groundbreaking health disparities research happening in our state that Alzheimer's disease disproportionality impacts women, who statistically live longer than men, and Black, Indigenous, Latino, and LGBTQ+ communities, who are at higher risk due to persistent health and socioeconomic disparities and inequities.

California is leading the nation in Alzheimer's awareness, prevention, care, training, support, and research. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recognized the continued success of California's *Healthy Brain Initiative*, awarding the state a BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act grant. And in July, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced that 45 of the 390 health care organizations selected to participate in an eight-year dementia care pilot are from California – the most from any state.

On World Alzheimer's Day in September, I signed legislation to increase training on wandering issues for law enforcement, and a measure that requires doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals who provide care for people 65 and older as at least 25% of their practice to take continuing education in geriatrics and dementia care. Earlier this year, the state launched the *Take on Alzheimer's* public awareness media campaign to promote risk reduction, educate Californians about the signs of Alzheimer's, and encourage conversations with loved ones and health care providers around screening. California has also trained thousands of caregivers on Alzheimer's and dementia care through culturally competent courses in multiple languages.

We are proud of the vital work being done by our partners – including the 10 California Alzheimer's Disease Centers, 33 Area Agencies on Aging, 21 Regional Centers for developmental disability services, 28 Independent Living Centers, and 11 nonprofit Caregiver Resource Centers – that serve and support individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and their families. These state-funded centers play a key role in supporting California's diverse family caregivers, the backbone of our long-term care system. I also thank the members of California's Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee for their service and advocacy, and the Californians who generously donate each year to fund Alzheimer's disease research through the longstanding voluntary state tax check-off.

This November, I ask all Californians to join me in recognizing Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, an opportunity to educate ourselves and offer our support to those living with the disease, and their caregivers.

**NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim November 2024, as "Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month."

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024.



  
GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**  
  
SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.  
Secretary of State