STATE OF ARKANSAS
House of Representatives

Arkansas House Newsletter

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The Future of Alzheimer’s Care

Research into Alzheimer’s disease and dementia has advanced significantly in recent years. We know more about reducing risk, detecting cognitive decline earlier and treating the disease than we did when Arkansas developed its previous state plan.

This week, the Arkansas Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Advisory Council reviewed the updated 2026 Arkansas Alzheimer’s and Dementia State Plan and discussed potential legislation for the 2027 Regular Session.

More than 60,000 Arkansans age 65 and older are living with Alzheimer’s disease. The updated plan recognizes that advances in research, diagnostic tools and treatments are changing how we approach the disease and how we can better support patients and their families.

One of the plan’s priorities is earlier detection. This includes educating healthcare providers about cognitive assessments and improving access to evaluations, particularly for Arkansans under age 65 and those living in rural areas.

The plan also emphasizes brain health and what we are learning about factors that may reduce the risk or delay the onset of dementia. Many of the same steps that promote overall health—including physical activity and managing conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes—may also support long-term cognitive health.

Another major focus is supporting caregivers. Approximately 175,000 Arkansans provide unpaid care for someone with dementia. Recommendations include expanding respite services, caregiver education and resource centers while creating a more coordinated system to help families find available services.

The plan also examines how Arkansas can improve access to newer diagnostic tools and treatments that can slow the progression of Alzheimer’s for some patients.

As we prepare for the 2027 Regular Session, lawmakers will continue examining these recommendations and potential legislation. Alzheimer’s touches families in every part of our state. As science and treatment continue to evolve, Arkansas must ensure our policies evolve with them.