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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
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TO: Colleagues in the House

FROM: Rep. Kathy Watson *Kathy Watson*

DATE: February 22, 2012

SUBJECT: Alzheimer Disease State Plan

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation for a Pennsylvania Alzheimer Disease Plan. The plan is a comprehensive blueprint for how we will address the growing Alzheimer's crisis. It creates the infrastructure and accountability necessary to build dementia-capable programs and services for the nearly 400,000 currently diagnosed victims, with over 650,000 caregivers supporting them, resulting in **1 in 12** of Pennsylvanian families being affected. To date, 31 states have either published or are in the process of writing an Alzheimer Disease Plan.

The plan will prepare the Commonwealth to address a range of issues, including:

- dementia-capable support services for people at all stages of the disease;
- quantifying the number of individuals with Alzheimer's in the Commonwealth through a *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System*;
- quality of long-term care;
- Medicaid coverage of long-term care for those who cannot afford it;
- availability of diagnostic services;
- and safety of persons who wander.

This initiative charges state agencies, legislators, residential and community care providers, professional and family caregivers, and persons with Alzheimer Disease to work together in-concert to create a plan that addresses the Alzheimer's epidemic with a thoughtful, integrated, and cost-effective approach.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Meredith Schuler in my office at 7-5452 or via e-mail at mschuler@pahousegop.com. Thank you.

KMW