



Dear Friend,

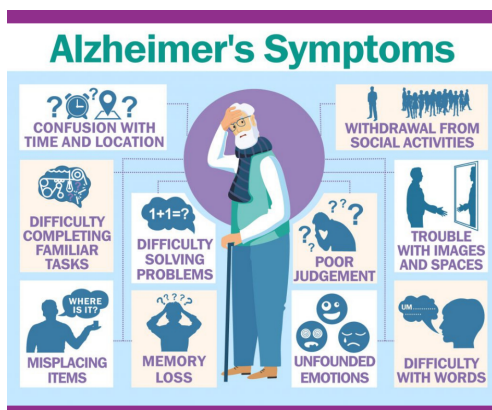
In honor of Alzheimer's Awareness Week, we're bringing you a special edition newsletter to further educate, give resources and bring attention to legislation I'm currently sponsoring to support those living with Alzheimer's in giving them the care that they need.

What is Alzheimer's?

Alzheimer's is a progressive disease that worsens over time, as brain cell connections and the cells themselves degenerate and die. This results in the individual's memory and other mental functions being lost with the main displaying symptoms being memory loss and confusion.

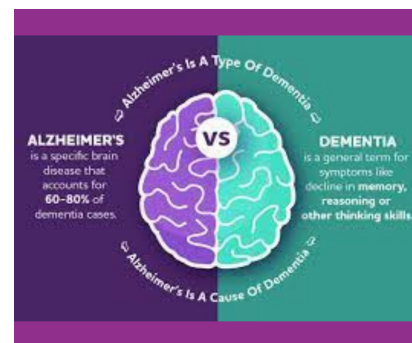
Symptoms of Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's shows its effects on the brain in the cognitive, behavioral, psychological and mood sections of the brain. This leads to an overall decrease in memory and thinking ability and can cause confusion and frustration.



Difference Between Alzheimer's and Dementia

Dementia is a term used to categorize a group of symptoms, while Alzheimer's is a disease diagnosis. 60-80% of those who show the symptom of dementia are later or currently diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Dementia simply categorizes a decline in thinking and memory, while Alzheimer's is a progressive disease.



Is There a Cure for Alzheimer's?

Unfortunately, there is no cure for Alzheimer's, but the symptoms can be managed temporarily through management strategies and medications. Recent studies have also found that music can help in reducing agitation and stress in the disease and improve behavioral issues. [Link to Learn More.](#)



Resources for Alzheimer's & Caregivers

[Alzheimer's Association](#) : The Alzheimer's Association provides educational resources, local support groups, local community resources and referral agencies all through this site. You can also call for more information/ referrals at 1-800-272-3900.

[Eldercare Locator](#) :The Eldercare Locator provides resources for the senior community and also connects to local referral resources when you go to their website and enter in your zip code or you call 1-800-677-1116.

[ADEAR Center \(Alzheimer's and related Dementias Education and Referral Center\)](#): This center focuses on providing education and referrals regarding both Dementia and Alzheimer's. They provide free publications available for research on both Dementia and Alzheimer's and can give referrals to local agencies. You can reach them by phone at (800)438-4380 or by email adear@nia.nih.gov .

Local Family Caregiver Support:

Kane: [Senior Service Associates, Inc.](#)

(800) 942-1724

Dupage: [Metropolitan Family Services](#)

(630) 784-4838

[DuPage County Community Services](#)

(630) 407-6500

Suburban Cook: [Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago](#)

(877) 426-6515

Kendall:[Senior Service Associates, Inc.](#)

(800) 339-3200

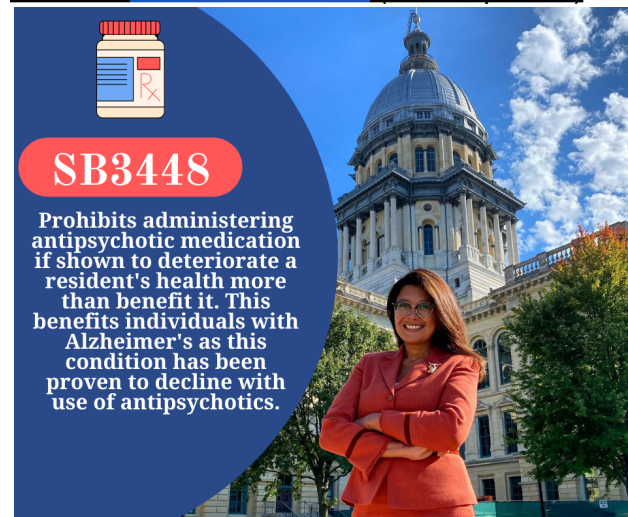
[Kendall County Health Department](#)

(630) 553-9100

Each of these resources provide comprehensive support for those working to care for someone with Alzheimer's or Dementia. For more information on these services or for a look into more aging and caregiving services available you can also visit [AgeGuide](#) for Kane, DuPage and Kendall County or call at (800) 528-2000. For Suburban Cook County you can use [AgeOptions](#) and they can be reached by phone at (800) 699-9043.

Legislation to Help Individuals with Alzheimer's

SB3448: [Click Here to View](#) (Chief Sponsor)



SB3448

Prohibits administering antipsychotic medication if shown to deteriorate a resident's health more than benefit it. This benefits individuals with Alzheimer's as this condition has been proven to decline with use of antipsychotics.

SB3707: [Click Here to View](#) (Chief Co-Sponsor)



SB3707

Requires both Dementia & Alzheimer's training for anyone seeking employment with the Department of Aging. This will ensure those providing these services hold the training and education necessary to provide the best care to this population.

What's Next?

If you have any questions regarding Alzheimer's disease, want to learn how to further spread awareness, need resources as a caregiver for someone with Alzheimer's or want to learn more about the legislation I have that works to benefit those with Alzheimer's, please reach out to my office at 630-326-9319 (English), 630-326-9419 (Spanish) or constituentservices@senatorvilla.com.

Well wishes!



Karina Villa, MSW
State Senator, 25th District