

Advocacy Alert!!

Background:

Working with Alzheimer's New Jersey®, Assemblyman Paul Kanitra introduced the "Ruth Gilbert Alzheimer's Accessibility Act" (A4770). A similar bill (S4058) was introduced by New Jersey State Senator Robert Singer.

The bill would allow certain people diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or other types of dementia and the caregivers transporting those individuals to park in parking spaces reserved for people with disabilities. The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC) application for a disability parking placard, identification card and license plate would be updated to specifically include Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia.

Currently Alzheimer's disease is not specifically listed on the NJMVC application. Those with Alzheimer's may fall under the application category of a neurological condition, but this is open to interpretation by the NJMVC as the definition of "neurological condition" seems to only be related to the physical inability to walk.

The ability to park in a designated disabilities parking space would ease some of the stress of transporting a person with Alzheimer's to a medical appointment or any other destination that involves public parking.

Call to Action:

 Please call or email the chairs and vice chairs of the Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee and the Senate Transportation Committee and urge them to post the bills to the next scheduled meeting of their committees

Click on the links below to contact the chairs and vice chairs:

Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee

<u>Clinton Calabrese</u>, Chair <u>Linda S. Carter</u>, Vice-Chair

Senate Transportation Committee

Patrick J. Diegnan Jr., Chair Raj Mukherji, Vice-Chair • You can also call or email **your own Senator and Assembly members** and ask for their support. Visit https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislative-roster to find your legislators.

Please use the sample text/talking points when sending your email or making your calls.

Questions: Contact Elaine Winter at ewinter@alznj.org