

**South Carolina
Advisory Council on Aging**



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September 12, 2019

Ms. Beth Sulkowski, Vice President of Communications and Advocacy
Ms. Taylor Wilson, Director of State Policy
Alzheimer's Association of South Carolina
140 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 210
Columbia, South Carolina 20210

Dear Ms. Sulkowski and Ms. Wilson:

During the September 11, 2019 meeting of the South Carolina Advisory Council, members voted unanimously to support the Alzheimer's Association's efforts to establish a dementia coordinator's position at the South Carolina Department on Aging (SCDOA).

It is our understanding that the Alzheimer's Coordinating Council (ARCC) at the SCDOA is unfunded and that a dementia coordinator would manage the council in addition to working with other state agencies and partners to address Alzheimer's and dementia related topics.

The Alzheimer's statistics for South Carolina are staggering:

- A 192 percent increase in Alzheimer's diagnosis in South Carolina since 2000, which is above the 145 percent national average.
- Over 92,000 South Carolinians living with Alzheimer's and that number is expected to increase by 30.4 percent by 2025.
- In 2015, South Carolina had the highest Alzheimer's death rate in America. It was the sixth leading cause of death in the state.

The South Carolina Advisory Council on Aging stands with the Alzheimer's Association to educate families, caregivers, and policy makers as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark M. Smith".

Mark M. Smith
Chairman