



**Action Alert**

**May 2022**

From the Desk of NFDW President Gail Buckner

May 22, 2022

**SUPPORT THE ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER SUPPORT ACT (S.56/ H.R.1474)**

NFDW's Third Vice President Gini Ballou is a dedicated advocate for addressing Alzheimer's issues. One week ago she was in Washington, DC speaking to members of Congress as she advocated for the Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act. You are urged to join Vice President Gini Ballou in this quest for improving the conditions of those with Alzheimer's and their caregivers. Mrs. Ballou is also President of the Idaho Democratic Women's Caucus.

*A message from NFDW's 3rd VP, Gini Ballou:*

**ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER SUPPORT ACT – PROVIDING RELIEF FOR NATION'S CAREGIVERS**

Today, more than 11 million Americans – often family members, friends, and other caregivers - provide unpaid care for people with Alzheimer's or other dementias. Now more than ever, we need aid to support the emotionally, physically and financially draining role of being a caregiver. Thankfully, the bipartisan Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act (S.56/ H.R.1474) would provide much needed relief for our nation's dementia caregivers.

The Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act would provide grants to expand training and support services for unpaid caregivers of people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Through this bill, grantees including community health centers, senior centers, Area Agencies on Aging, and more, would reach diverse communities to provide this training and support for families and caregivers.

Today, more than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's — a number expected to double by 2050. In 2021, caregivers of people with Alzheimer's or other dementias provided an estimated 16 billion hours of informal (that is, unpaid) assistance, a contribution to the nation valued at \$272 billion.

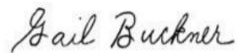
Eighty-three percent of the help provided to older adults in the United States comes from family members, friends, or other unpaid caregivers. Nearly half of all caregivers who provide help to older adults do so for someone living with Alzheimer's or another dementia.

Approximately two-thirds of caregivers are women; more specifically, over one-third of dementia caregivers are daughters. Most caregivers (66%) live with the person with dementia in the community. Approximately one-quarter of dementia caregivers are “sandwich generation” caregivers — meaning that they care not only for an aging parent but also for at least one child.

Alzheimer's takes a devastating toll on caregivers. Compared with caregivers of people without dementia, twice as many caregivers of those with dementia indicate substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties. Dementia caregivers often lack the information or resources necessary to manage complex medication regimens.

Please cosponsor S.56/ H.R.1474 the Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Burkner".

President, NFDW

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