July 7, 2020

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2047 (Emergency response: Alzheimer's disease and dementia) –SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in strong support of your bill, AB 2047, which has recently been amended to respond to the grave COVID-19 crisis by ensuring that all counties in our state incorporate a plan to address the unique needs of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and dementia in their emergency response during the next plan update.

COVID-19 has created unique challenges for those living with Alzheimer's and dementia. They depend on a network of caregiving services that have been significantly impacted by the statewide stay-at-home order, and within the broader community of individuals with dementia, individuals who live alone are particularly at risk. Based on the *March 2020 Alzheimer's Association Facts and Figures report,* we know that approximately one in four individuals with cognitive impairment lives alone, leaving many without resources they depend upon.

Current state law requires counties to integrate the access and functional needs population into its emergency plan, upon the next update to these plans. However, current law does not require planning for emergency shelter-in-place orders, nor does it explicitly acknowledge the 690,000 individuals in our state living with Alzheimer's and dementia today - a population projected to increase by 21.7% in the next five years.

AB 2047 will ensure that our counties' emergency plans account for this vulnerable population and take consideration of the difference between sheltering in place orders and other emergency directives. Should you have any questions about our strong SUPPORT position, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Estelle Fennell, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

EF:kh