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Neutral Testimony for HB 2114 – Establishing the Senior Care Task Force

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January 28, 2021

Thank you, Madam Chair Concannon and members of the House Children and Seniors Committee, for affording me the opportunity to testify regarding HB 2114, Establishing the Senior Care Task Force.

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. In Kansas, we have two chapters which together serve all 105 counties.

While overall we are in favor of having a task force for senior issues, we have concerns with the proposed membership in the bill.

In Section 1. of HB 2114, it reads "The task force shall study the following topics: (1) The provision of care for seniors in the state of Kansas who suffer from Alzheimer's disease, dementia or other age-related mental health conditions;" Because this is listed as a main purpose of the task force then it seems necessary to have someone from the Alzheimer's Association on the task force as well.

The Alzheimer's Association views this task force as a positive step toward addressing the needs of those with dementia in Kansas. However, a task force is only as good as its members. Therefore, its membership should adequately represent the needs of seniors in Kansas.