

REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS



Friends,

As the Legislature enters the final months of our 2017-2018 session, Beacon Hill is as busy and bustling as ever. Legislators – myself included – are working hard to push priority bills over the finish line and into law before the August recess commences. Just last month, the House of Representatives passed priority legislation aiming to address an issue close to all of our hearts: Alzheimer's and dementia.

House Bill 4116, *An Act relative to Alzheimer's and related dementias in the Commonwealth*, will coordinate state efforts to address Alzheimer's disease and aid patients and families dealing with related dementias. To do this, the bill establishes an "Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Council," which will provide the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) and the Legislature with recommendations on Alzheimer's policy, an evaluation of state-funded research, care, and programming, and any outcomes of such efforts. EOHHS will create an integrated plan to coordinate government efforts while ensuring appropriate resources are maximized and leveraged.

Additionally, in an effort to strengthen a patient's support network and improve communication, physicians will be granted increased flexibility when sharing medical information with a patient's family throughout diagnosis and treatment, while operating within the existing legal framework of federal and state medical information privacy laws. The legislation also creates minimum-training standards for elder protective services social workers and requires a new, one-time continuing education requirement for physicians, physician's assistants, registered nurses, and practical nurses, which will include training in the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's. Several of these provisions originated in the Joint Committee on Public Health, which I co-chair, before being incorporated into the omnibus bill.

As I noted in my December newsletter, there are currently 120,000 individuals in Massachusetts living with Alzheimer's or a related dementia, and that number is expected to climb to 150,000 by 2025. Whether a patient, caregiver, family member, or loved one – Alzheimer's or dementia has touched nearly every one of our lives. As the medical community grapples with this public health crisis, I'm thankful that the legislation passed by the House of Representatives lays out a statewide strategy to address it head-on. The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.

Kate's 8th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration



You are invited to my 8th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Assabet Valley. This fundraiser will be Friday, March 16th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Maynard Country Club, 50 Brown Street, Maynard, MA. There will be appetizers and a cash bar. Tom O'Carroll, Irish Balladeer, will be back providing music entertainment. Hope to see you there!

Rep. Hogan's Office Hours

- District Office Hours will be held in **Bolton** on Thursday, March 29th from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Bolton Public Library, 738 Main Street.

All questions, ideas, or concerns are welcome. If you are unable to attend office hours, call the State House at (617) 722-2130 to schedule an appointment. Staff is also available at the District Office on all Mondays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (*Closed Holiday Mondays*)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Hogan" followed by a horizontal line.

Kate Hogan, State Representative

Proudly represents Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow
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