



5/8/20

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Member, 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:

Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance writes 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 plans to address the unique needs of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and dementia in their emergency response during the next plan update.

Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance and the Yolo County Commission on Aging and Adult Services have been working with our community to enhance our emergency response and evacuation plans in Yolo County so that they address persons most at risk to die, our older adults and persons with disabilities. Included within this population are persons with Alzheimer's and dementia who are often overlooked as a population that have special needs. Ironically, our Yolo Co. planning group was meeting the day that the COVID-19 shelter in place for older adults was announced to begin the next day. We were in the middle of a discussion of the term "shelter in place", if the public would understand this term and what supports our older adults would need if such an order ever occurred. Now that we have experience in this area, we know that there are services and supports that will be needed by persons with dementia as a particularly vulnerable group.

Current state law requires counties to integrate the access and functional needs population into its emergency plan. 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 into consideration the difference between sheltering in place orders and other emergency directives. YHAA strongly supports this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila A. Allen".

Sheila A Allen, RN, PhD
Executive Director