



Pennsylvania
MEDICAL SOCIETY®

ADVOCATE. EDUCATE. NAVIGATE.

Michael A. DellaVecchia, MD, PhD,
FAAO, FACS, FICS, FASLMS, FCPP
President

David A. Talenti, MD
President Elect

F. Wilson Jackson, III, MD
Vice President

Edward P. Balaban, DO
Chair

Maria J. Sunseri, MD
Secretary

Martin P. Raniowski, MA, FCPP, CAE
Executive Vice President

400 Winding Creek Blvd.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-1885

Membership Inquiries
(800) 228-7823

Tel: (800) 228-7823
Fax: (855) 943-3285
Email: KnowledgeCenter@pamedsoc.org
www.pamedsoc.org

Friday, June 4, 2021

Dear Health Committee Members:

On behalf of physician members of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, I am writing to request your support for House Bill 1082 sponsored by Representative Carrie DelRosso. This important legislation establishes an education program for healthcare providers for the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and further incorporates information about these diseases into existing public health outreach programs.

Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death and the most common cause of dementia, affecting memory, thinking and behavior. The Alzheimer's Association estimates that 6.2 million people of all ages have Alzheimer's disease in the United States. Its victims suffer horrific, prolonged end of life and can be reduced to a vegetative state. However, it has been shown that early and careful evaluation and diagnosis is important because some conditions are treatable. So, an accurate early diagnosis is critical.

House Bill 1082 directs the Pennsylvania Department of Health to establish and maintain an Early Detection and Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias toolkit. The toolkit requires best practices and cognitive assessment protocols and educational resources to assist the primary healthcare workforce in the detection, diagnosis, treatment, and care planning for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

The Pennsylvania Medical Society applauds Representative DelRosso for this vital effort and urge your support in helping to advance this important legislation. We respectfully ask for an affirmative vote on House Bill 1082 when presented before the House Health Committee in the near future.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. DellaVecchia MD PhD".

Michael A. DellaVecchia, MD, PhD, FACS, FICS
President