

Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**

First Regular Session

**5213**

House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_



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**INTRODUCED BY REP. ALFRED VARGAS**

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**AN ACT**  
**AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH TO**  
**AWARD GRANTS FOR TRAINING AND SUPPORT SERVICES**  
**FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

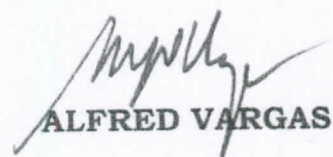
Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia, is a degenerative brain disease of unknown cause that results in progressive memory loss, impaired thinking, disorientation, and changes in personality and behavior. All of which lead to deterioration of cognitive, emotional and physical functions.

According to the Department of Health (DOH), symptoms of Alzheimer's disease begin to manifest when someone is in their 40s or 50s, while about 5% of people reaching 65 of age are affected, and 15-25% of people reaching 85 years old succumb to the disease.

The late stage of the disease requires total dependence and inactivity. Hence, caregivers for Alzheimer's patients experience different levels of stress, including emotional burdens and psychological distress.

To date, there is no known treatment for Alzheimer's to put a stop to its progress. This Bill intends to support the quality of life of the patient's families and caregivers, which will also help improve the patients' condition while in their care.

Thus, this Representation seeks the immediate passage of this Bill.

  
**ALFRED VARGAS**

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act".

**SECTION 2. Grants Regarding Training and Support Services for Alzheimer's Patients and their Families.** -

(a) *In General.* - The Secretary of Health may award grants to public and non-profit private health care providers for the purpose of expanding training and support services for families and caregivers of patients with Alzheimer's disease.

(b) *Recipients of Grants.* - The public and non-profit private health care providers to whom grants may be made include health care organizations, community health centers, nursing homes, senior centers, community-based organizations, and national government and local health agencies and social service agencies.



### **SECTION 3. *Conditions for Grant.* –**

(a) *Integration of Treatment, Training, and Support Services.* – The recipient must agree to employ a comprehensive approach to Alzheimer's care that integrates treatment of patients with Alzheimer's disease with training and support services for the patients' families and caregivers.

(b) *Appropriate Cultural Context.* – The recipient must agree that in any program to be funded by such grant, services will be provided in the dialects or languages most appropriate for, and with consideration for the cultural backgrounds of the individuals for whom the services are provided.

(c) *Outreach Services.* – The recipient must agree to provide outreach activities to inform the public of the services of the program, and to provide information on Alzheimer's disease.

**SECTION 4. *Application for Grant.*** – A grant may be made only if any application for the grant is submitted to the Secretary of Health and the application is in such form, is made in such manner, and contains such agreements, assurances, and information as the Secretary of Health determines to be necessary to carry out this Act.

**SECTION 5. *Authorization of Appropriations.*** – For the purpose of carrying out this Act, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2014 through 2019.

**SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

**SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,