

Raymer Alzheimer's measure sent to Senate for consideration

Members of the Kentucky House voted to pass House Bill (HB) 393, a measure sponsored by Representative Rebecca Raymer (R-Morgantown), that would address the critical need for early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

Specifically, HB 393 would require the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) Advisory Council to develop, implement, and disseminate a health care provider toolkit on early detection and diagnosis.

The ADRD Advisory Council reports directly to the Office of Dementia Services (ODS), an office within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS).

The ADRD Advisory Council helps review and advise CHFS on Kentucky's Alzheimer's and Related Dementias State Plan, which guides the Commonwealth in addressing Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

"Early detection and

diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease can lead to better long-term health outcomes by connecting patients to resources, support, and treatment before the disease progresses," said Raymer. "Our goal with House Bill 393 would be to ensure providers, patients, and caregivers are better equipped to address and prepare for the challenges that follow a diagnosis."

To better help close gaps in council membership, HB 393 would require adding another current or former caregiver for an individual living with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia to the council.

Starting Dec. 1, 2029, and every four years after, the council would be required to submit an updated Kentucky Alzheimer's and Related Dementias State Plan to the Legislative Research Commission (LRC), the administrative arm of the General Assembly.

Beginning Dec. 1 of each year, the council would also be required to develop and implement a year-long initiative that advances key

areas of the state plan.

Additionally, the dementia services coordinator, responsible for the staffing and operational details of the ODS, would be required to prepare and submit an annual report on the operations of the office and council to the LRC by Dec. 1 of each year.

At a minimum, the report would have to include a progress update on the implementation of the state plan and any state plan amendments or recommendations.

"Providing health care providers with toolkits on early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease will better equip them to serve patients and caregivers across the Commonwealth," Raymer added. "Ultimately, we want to ensure that those battling Alzheimer's disease receive the best caliber care, support, and treatment possible."

HB 393 now moves to the Kentucky Senate for consideration. For more information on HB 393, please visit legislature.ky.gov.



EMMALYN HALLIBURTON performs a stunt at a recent MCHS game. The Mustangs will host Madisonville-North Hopkins on Feb. 13.--Times-Argus photo by Mike Groves

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