



AN ACT RELATIVE TO EARLY-ONSET ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE H.598

Sponsor: Representative Bruce Ayers

Approximately 200,000 individuals in the United States have younger-onset Alzheimer's (sometimes referred to as early-onset Alzheimer's). The stigma associated with younger-onset Alzheimer's can have a significant impact on their well-being and quality of life and often pose unique challenges when it comes to family, work, and finances. These challenges can be further amplified for those living with younger onset Alzheimer's, whose unique status may preclude appropriate access to critical services like the MassHealth Frail Elder Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver.

Massachusetts Medicaid—called MassHealth—operates the Frail Elderly Waiver specifically to help residents who require nursing home level care to receive health care and ongoing support services in their homes or community living residences instead of in a nursing home.

Eligibility for this waiver depends on the age, location, functional ability, and financial status of the applicants. Candidates must be a minimum of 60 years of age and must be financially qualified for MassHealth Medicaid to be eligible for the HCBS Waiver. Families and individuals impacted by younger-onset Alzheimer's and related dementias are often not eligible for these services given the age and financial eligibility requirements.

This legislation would ensure services provided through the MassHealth Frail Elder Home and Community-Based Services Waiver shall be made available to persons diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease regardless of their age, if they are otherwise eligible for such services.

PLEASE SUPPORT H.598

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BENEFITS & SERVICES

- Adult Day Care
- Dementia coaching
- Companion services
- Home Delivered Meals
- Homemaker & Chore Services
- Home Modifications
- Home Health Aide
- Occupational therapy
- Medication delivery
- Personal Care
- Respite Care
- Skilled nursing
- Supportive day program
- System for dispensing medications
- Transitional services
- Transportation Assistance
- Wander Response System