Supporting Dementia Caregivers
AB 786: Alzheimer’s and Dementia Caregiver Education and Support Grant Program

Introduced by Assemblymember Dr. Jasmeet Bains, Chair of the Assembly Aging and Long-Term Care Committee, the Alzheimer’s and Dementia Caregiver Education and Support Grant program would expand access to evidence-supported dementia caregiver training and additional support programs such as respite, support groups and care counseling. The grant program would award funding to 10 sites, prioritizing proposals that reach diverse communities.

Background
Unpaid family caregivers are the unsung heroes of our nation’s long-term care system—often providing care while facing increased financial burden, emotional stress, and their own health challenges. Almost 1.7 million Californians currently provide over $63 billion of unpaid care to a family member or friend with Alzheimer’s disease or a related dementia. Most do not receive formal caregiver training but are expected to help with a wide range of activities including bathing, administering medications, transportation, and providing emotional support to the person living with dementia. Investing in training, supportive services, and other resources for family caregivers can help these family members continue to provide care, keeping their loved ones out of institutional settings.

In line with California priorities
This proposal is in alignment with the goals of the Master Plan for Aging (MPA) and the State’s Dementia Care Aware program which provides physicians with additional tools and training to support better screening for dementia and post-diagnostic care. As a result, more Californians, especially lower-income residents, will receive earlier diagnoses and the need for additional caregiver supports will also increase. This grant project would build on both the MPA and the Dementia Care Aware program by giving California caregivers the supports they need to live a higher quality of life for both themselves and their loved one living with dementia.

For more information, contact Monica Miller, mmiller@sacadv.com or (916)799-3077