Submit your letters of support through the portal <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>. Please

send a copy to Kelly Takasu at ktakasu@alzla.org or Monica Miller mmiller@sacadv.com.

[ORGANIZATION LETTERHEAD]

DATE

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| --- | --- |
| The Honorable Aisha Wahab, ChairCommittee on Public SafetyCalifornia State Senate1020 N Street, Room 545Sacramento, CA 95814 | The Honorable Kelly Seyarto, Vice ChairCommittee on Public SafetyCalifornia State Senate1020 N Street, Room 545Sacramento, CA 95814 |

**RE: AB 2541 (Bains) Peace officer training: wandering– (Support)**

Dear Senators Wahab and Seyarto:

[Organization Name] supports AB 2541, Peace officer training: wandering, which would direct the Commission on Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) to create a statewide taskforce to develop guidelines addressing wandering associated with Alzheimer’s disease, autism, and dementia.

Wandering or elopement is a serious safety issue for some of our most vulnerable Californians. An estimated 719,700 people are living with Alzheimer’s disease in California. Over sixty percent of those living with Alzheimer’s will wander at some point.

In 2020, the Department of Developmental Services reported nearly 133,000 cases of autism in California, a number which is expected to continue to increase. An estimated 49 percent of children with autism will engage in wandering behavior.

Wandering among people living with Alzheimer’s or children with autism can have serious and often deadly consequences. According to the National Autism Association, in 2011 accidental drowning accounted for 91 percent of the total U.S. deaths reported of children with autism ages 14 and younger, after wandering or elopement. For people with Alzheimer’s disease, locating a missing person quickly is imperative because an estimated 50 percent of those not found within 24 hours will suffer serious injury or death.

[Enter information about your organization]

Prevention is the key to addressing the risk of wandering and protecting the lives of some of our most vulnerable Californians. This bill would direct POST, in consultation with experts, to create guidelines to address the issue of wandering for these vulnerable populations. These guidelines will help our local law enforcement agencies build systems, protocols, outreach programs, and technology responses to support individuals and families impacted by Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias and autism.

We urge your support for AB 2541 to help California prevent and respond to wandering of those with a cognitive impairment.

Sincerely,

NAME
ORGANIZATION

Cc: Assemblymember Dr. Jasmeet Bains