



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

November 2022

Family Caregivers Month and Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month

November is Family Caregivers Month – a time when we recognize and honor Californians caring for their parents, spouses, adult children and other loved ones. California has more than four million family caregivers who each play a vital role in their families, communities and our state's economy. Women provide the majority of unpaid care that makes it possible for older and disabled family members to live in the homes and communities of their choice.

I'm proud that California's Master Plan for Aging elevated the importance of "Caregiving that Works" as one of five bold goals in the 10-year blueprint for our state. Building on recent caregiving investments in the state's network of Area Agencies on Aging, we advanced additional investments in the Budget Act of 2022 for Caregiver Resource Centers that will focus on outreach to diverse and historically underserved families. To assist family caregivers who are also employed, I signed Paid Family Leave legislation that better supports lower-wage workers (SB 951) and that recognizes the diversity of California's families by allowing workers to take leave for their loved ones of choice (AB 1041.)

November is also Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. As our state population ages, more families will care for loved ones with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Dementia disproportionately impacts women, people of color and people with Down Syndrome. To help address increasing rates of Alzheimer's disease in California, I called for strategies that focus on prevention, diagnosis and care through the Prevention and Preparedness Task Force chaired by our former first lady, Maria Shriver.

California has since launched "Dementia Care Aware," the nation's first statewide standard of care for dementia screening, to implement equity-focused, culturally appropriate training for primary care doctors, starting with Medi-Cal providers. Our state is also leading the way with new public awareness campaigns and the Healthy Brain Initiative, whose mission is to advance cognitive health as an integral component of public health; new resources for Alzheimer's Adult Day Centers in seven communities; and new workforce training, including the In-Home Supportive Services Career Pathway on cognitive impairment.



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This November as many families gather together across the generations, I ask Californians to join me in recognizing both Family Caregivers Month and Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month and in offering deep appreciation and support for family caregivers and those living with dementia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line.

Gavin Newsom