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Dear Chairman Tittl and members of the Assembly Committee on Mental Health Reform,

I would like to thank you for taking the time in this committee to hear my proposal, AB 792, today. This bill is a small fix to the Wisconsin Silver Alert program that I helped institute in my first term as a legislator. This bill will make the Silver Alert a more successful and useful program for Wisconsinites. We as legislators have a duty to do all we can to make sure that we ensure the safety of all without infringing on the independence of our citizens.

Currently, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation cannot follow up on cases where an individual with a valid driver's license has a silver alert issued to them.

This bill is meant to resolve that "glitch" in the state's Silver Alert program and help maintain the integrity of the Silver Alert Program. Under the proposal the DOT would be allowed to do follow ups and investigate whether or not driving restrictions should be put in place for that individual.

The person who is the subject of such an alert may have restrictions imposed on their license for the safety of the individual and or the public. The bill also would have the person for whom the Silver Alert is issued report to a report to a local aging and disability resource center.

This oversight was brought to our attention by the Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin. There has been at least one case where a gentleman had two separate Silver Alerts issued for him.

AB 792 is not an attempt to take away the privilege of having a driver's license from those who are the subject of a Silver Alert but to ensure the safety of all driver's on Wisconsin's roads. There often comes a time when we are not able to safely traverse the roads and become a danger to ourselves and others, this bill will work avoid such situations.

Thank you for your time,

Representative Ken Skowronski

82nd Assembly District



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Alzheimer's and Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin testimony in support of AB 792

Good morning Chair Tittl and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I'm Rob Gundermann, the Public Policy Director for the ADAW and I'm speaking in favor of AB 792.

This is a fairly simple fix to address an issue that has come up with the Silver Alert program. When the program was passed last session we were under the impression that license reviews would be performed by the Department of Transportation when an alert was issued for someone who held a valid license. Unfortunately, we have discovered that the Department of Justice can't request the license review because they aren't actually involved with the alert beyond issuing it which is the reason for this legislation.

Our concern is that we have had more than one case where people have had a second Silver Alert issued for them and we're concerned that people may be falling through the cracks. AB 792 would help to ensure that people who have a Silver Alert issued for them aren't put at risk a second or third time by requiring a license review.

DOT is very good at avoiding pulling a person's license unless it's absolutely necessary. They're also very good at placing restrictions such as only allowing someone to drive during daylight hours or within a certain distance from their home if that's necessary but they can't do any of that unless a license review is completed. This bill would ensure that a review takes place.

The ADAW urges your support of AB 792