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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. In Virginia's first Dementia State Plan, released in 2011, the first recommendation was "to create a position and obtain specific funding to hire a full-time Dementia Services Coordinator or a DSC to coordinate the services provided to persons with dementia working in conjunction with the Virginia Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Commission." The Plan envisioned the role of the DSC to include:

- Disseminating information on services to individuals living with dementia and caregivers;
- Establishing a strategy to link and coordinate the services of state agencies, service providers, advocacy groups, and the aging network in Virginia;
- Coordinating and supporting the Alzheimer's Commission;
- Promoting services for all stages and types of dementia; and
- Ensuring that the aging network was dementia capable.

Virginia's General Assembly included \$100,000 in funding for this position starting July 1, 2013. The initial and ongoing investment of state funding for the DSC has translated into millions of dollars in federal grants and better targeted state investments in coordinated and evidence-based programs.

The DSC has been instrumental in driving two four-yearly updates to the Dementia State Plan to reflect emerging priorities. The DSC has secured and administered federal grant funds totaling over \$1.25 million from the Administration for Community Living. Partnerships with the private sector established under these projects received a further \$2 million in ACL grants. The DSC has been instrumental in helping secure a current BOLD Act grant from the CDC of close to \$1 million. This funding has helped lay the groundwork for Virginia's dementia capability by implementing training for health care professionals, first responders, and direct support staff; integrating dementia awareness into the case management system used by the aging network; and implementing an evidence-based care coordination program for people with dementia as well as other caregiver supports. The DSC has also represented the voice and needs of people with dementia and caregivers across state agencies and systems and has forged a strong partnership with the Alzheimer's Association.

The DSC has more recently worked with the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Commission to create a new Dementia Capable Virginia initiative that will include materials and resources for the general public, for family and professional caregivers, for healthcare workers and for researchers. The DSC continues to drive Virginia's ongoing efforts to create a fully dementia-capable state, as well as to support efforts in new areas such as brain health and dementia risk reduction.