

# FACTSHEET

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alzimpact.org

## Kevin and Avonte's Law

### Wandering and getting lost are common among individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

- Anyone who has memory problems and is able to walk is at risk for wandering, even those in the early stages of dementia.
- When people with Alzheimer's wander, they may not remember their name or address and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. As a result, they often cannot find their way home.
- Among people with dementia who live in the community, an estimated 6 in 10 will wander.

### Wandering can be dangerous.

- Wandering among people with Alzheimer's sometimes leads to serious injury and even death. Of those who are lost for more than 24 hours, nearly half die.
- Wandering also causes considerable emotional strain on families and caregivers.

### Missing Americans Alert Program

Created by Congress in 1994, the Missing Americans Alert Program – originally known as the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program – is a proven success in helping law enforcement identify those who wander and reunite them with their families. As an example, one program handles nearly 1,000 wandering cases annually.

### More Than 60 Percent of Individuals with Dementia in the Community Will Wander



### To mitigate the risks to life and health associated with wandering, Kevin and Avonte's Law (S. 2070 / H.R. 4221) would:

- Reauthorize the Missing Americans Alert Program through fiscal year 2022.
- Provide up to \$2 million in grants each year to state and local law enforcement agencies, state health care agencies, and nonprofit organizations to establish and run programs to prevent wandering and to locate missing individuals; these programs can be educational or can involve non-invasive tracking technology for those at risk of wandering.
- Expand the Missing Americans Alert Program to include not only those with dementia but also those with developmental disabilities.