

# News Release



**Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **County Executive Shapiro and County Council Pass Legislation Recognizing the month of June as Alzheimer’s and Brain Awareness Month in Summit County**

Summit County Executive Shapiro and Summit County Council passed legislation recognizing the month of June 2018 as Alzheimer’s and Brain Awareness Month in Summit County. The legislation emphasizes the importance of awareness about Alzheimer’s disease and dementia and encourages the residents of Summit County to join in this acknowledgement.

An estimated 5.7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s disease, and within the next thirty years, that number is expected to rise by 14 million people. Alzheimer’s ranks as the 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States and claims more lives than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined.

“We hope one day, we will see a cure for Alzheimer’s disease and dementia,” said Executive Shapiro. “Until that day is realized, it is so important to raise awareness, support research, and most importantly, support loved ones, friends and members of our community who are living with Alzheimer’s or who are taking care of loved ones living with the disease.”

Additionally, 10% of people 65 years and over have been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. Women, African-Americans, and Hispanics are disproportionately affected, as two-thirds of Americans living with Alzheimer’s are women. African-Americans are twice as likely to be

affected by the disease, and Hispanics are one and one-half times as likely to be diagnosed with Alzheimer's in comparison with the older Caucasian population.

“Summit County is proud to recognize the month of June as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month,” said County Council President John Schmidt. “Many of us have witnessed a loved one battle this terrible disease, which is why continued awareness and support for research is so important.”

For more information:

<https://www.alz.org/>

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