

STATEMENT OF ----- and -----

-----, ILLINOIS
for

**SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION'S COMPASSIONATE ALLOWANCE
INITIATIVE HEARING ON
YOUNGER-ONSET ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND OTHER DEMENTIA**

JULY 29, 2009

I am the caregiver and wife of ----- . He is no longer able to write or express his feeling verbally regarding his Alzheimer's disease, or as he used to call it "his condition."

----- has been a great family provider, was a great sales manger and salesman before things started going wrong - missed appointments, getting lost, and thinking that changing companies would make things better for him. He was fired from two jobs, which had never happened to him before. Luckily he was able to secure that last job through an old business acquaintance and at that point I was on a mission to find out just what was wrong with -----.

We were very, very lucky to get a diagnosis before he lost that third job. Lucky also to have him working for a company that had long term disability that bridged the gap between job loss and SSDI.

----- was the main income earner and we may have lost the house without this long term disability and SSDI. I have met others who were not as lucky as we were.

Please help these people! The disease is devastating enough without losing homes and others still have young families to raise. Daycare is so expensive and nursing

homes are even more. Help us keep our loved ones at home where they feel more comfortable.