

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

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-----, 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 spouse of a person who has been diagnosed with early onset of Alzheimer's disease. My husband was diagnosed at age 56 and this has had significant impact on our lives. We have three small children under the age of 9 and we believe this devastating condition needs extraordinary attention. Not only does Alzheimer's negatively impact my husband's ability work at a job where he's been for 32 years, but it also prohibits him from fully participating in his family's life. He cannot pick up the children from school because he gets lost, he cannot take them to school events like father-daughter dances and father-son sports events for the same reason. He cannot remember their accomplishments or needs, from something as simple as the requirement for a pair of glasses or a follow up for a hearing test.

My husband is completely dependent on me for making doctors appointments, filling out disability forms, calling doctors, hospitals, his employer's human resources department, and the Social Security Office for all questions and follow ups. The worry and the strain are unimaginable. And added to this is the care of three young children that are completely dependent as well, given their father was stricken with this disease at such a young age.

Please consider this in your assessment on the needs of younger victims of Alzheimer's disease. Not only does the stricken person suffer, but the families are affected in so many ways as well. Financial, social, emotional, and personal devastation for the whole family is extremely tragic. Thank you.