

I believe every state in our union should see the benefits of this action item. There is nothing to lose and everything to gain. I wonder what my sons' outcome would have been like had their school counselor or teacher just sat down with them and talk to them rather than a "label." These are not "bad" children." They are lost as much as their parent or guardian. Moreover, probably one of the best places for early diagnosis is in the classroom. I would even contend that a troubled child may be reaching out for help because as soon as he gets home his world becomes one of "intense insanity."

One more personal example. Kim's behavior was "off the charts" when we lived in Little Rock. To my point about "all professionals" at the start I sought and attorney. The attorney's initial response was we needed a divorce. This then is why I say many divorces in the country are directly related to the "coming storm." I can no imagine my wife now of 27 years being along and probably on the street. I cannot imagine. This is a disease that no want wants as it is relentless, expensive, and ominous. It never sleeps.

I am reaching out to you for your support so that this message of hope can be presented to our people as a challenge. Specifically, our Governors and those law makers that can make a difference. This is too important to leave to chance. I would hope that every state government will enact or encourage any and all "licenses" be challenged by the question, "are you early on-set aware?" If so, the next step is open communications and setting up specific counseling with those forces already in play.

Your support be it by proclamation or letter of support for which I can submit to others and a letter of reference for this cause or other action is my request on behalf of all of those that have lived through this terrible ordeal, those living it now, and for those yet to face these perils in their formative years.

I am very grateful for your time and consideration in this most important matter.

Sincerely,



Joe Brazeal
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When we first moved to Brandon, Mississippi from Little Rock in December 2008 I was faced with many challenges. (*My daughter, Carrie, r by this time had "finished high school, was pregnant, and married." She and her husband moved with is as well")*

The immediate challenge was to enroll two children, John age 9 and Joseph age 15 into public school. I was up front with the school administration and explained to them the issue. The "deer in the headlight" look is what I received from John's elementary school as well as Joseph's high school staff. It was the magnitude that my wife might be "contagious." Their subsequent actions were really, in retrospect, one of "We don't know what to do, here is the counselor's name."

To that point, I must tell you that I have always been an activist when I see something amiss I wish to make it right. One of the first things I did when I got settled in Mississippi was organize an open meeting with the Alzheimer's association inviting the community. It was also during this same week that I received a call from Joseph's teacher that he had been "a problem" and was not paying attention and being disruptive. I told her that I would address it with him later.

A few days later we had the Alzheimer's meeting with several in attendance from all parts of Mississippi. The Alzheimer's association made presentation and afterward I was approached by an older lady saying "I understand now." My retort was, "what do you mean." She said, "I get it not. After 30 years of teaching I now can connect the dots that your son is the one in my class. There is no doubt, he is troubled and not able to sleep worried about his mother."

With children no doubt their character, body, and brains are developing. To subject them to said environment watching their parent slowly fade into "insanity" isn't one for the faint of heart. There are those that have that "needed" support" and then there are those that don't. I can only say again, your comments are on target and even more so with children that struggle with this day after day.

During this period I met with a counselor and he advised me I had three choice. The first was to place Kim elsewhere. The second was to place my children with friends or family members. The third was to keep doing what I was doing. I can tell you how the third option worked out. Neither of my boys have finished high school. My daughter, well, she certainly continues to have her challenges.

Having lived through my boys "aging out" via encompassing our many struggles I have clear direction in terms of the steps necessary to move the ball forward specifically in this area that affects thousands of Americans and even more worldwide. Moreover I offer that 20-30% of all divorces, troubled teens, those in jail, prisons, and even homeless have been affected by anxiety in their youth directly attributed by anxiety not addressed.

I am not talking about some multibillion dollar program or crusade to place our troubled youth on "medications" or some extravagant youth program. What I *am talking* is simple common sense that will not cost the tax payer any more than an extra question on an exam.

Bottom line, my vision is that all professionals dealing with the public have a question included on their "board" exams relating to dementia. This means, for example instead of my having to ask "school" counselors or teachers if they have knowledge of early onset "dementia" and its effects on children they would have already have had some schooling on the subject. This one change will make all the difference in the world. Just this one small step of awareness may save countless the pain of ridicule, lost hope, and a promising future. Alternatively, what do we have to lose? This is a reasonable and honorable request.

The information is out there. We simply need to embrace the awareness piece.

Friday, February 6, 2015

Honorable President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

Dear Honorable President Obama,

My name is Joe Brazeal and I am writing in regards to previous letters regarding families facing early onset Alzheimer's.

I commend for your efforts that established National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA), which you signed into law in January 2011. The purpose of my letter is to address National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease. Your words are the essence and reason of my letter "For millions of Americans, the heartbreak of watching a loved one struggle with Alzheimer's disease is a pain they know all too well. Alzheimer's disease burdens an increasing number of our Nation's elders and their families, and it is essential that we confront the challenge it poses to our public health."

Because I have been "living with my wife, Kim, having early-onset" this for nearly 10 years and having raised three children in this never ending storm I feel I am qualified to the point I feel I have PHD in this disease in terms of the effects on children and families.

I have a vision for which I seek your help in order to further these goals aforementioned. I might add this is not an expensive change but one of common sense. The problem as I see it is no one wants to admit that there is an elephant in the room. Yet, the animal is big and not going away in terms of early onset initial diagnosis and setting a plan in motion that most effectively provides an avenue of hope for families.

As I raised my children all the while caring for my wife, Kim, of 27 year the most toppling challenge was to bring true clarity to the "school" administrators, counselors, and teachers concerning my child's challenge. The fact of the matter is from my experience is that most administrators, staff, and teachers "have no clue" nor do they have any means to address children having to live with such a disease 24/7. This is to no fault of their own but simply fertile ground for which we can plant the seeds of hope.

Let me put it this way, when Kim was first diagnose in August 2008 I had no idea what I was dealing with nor was there much information out there or assistance. Kim had begun her "Walk" via various antics such as being afraid of driving over the Arkansas River, forgetting that she had just cashed a check, forgetting she had smoked her last cigarette. During this time my three children also became lost and worried. What needs to be made clear is two years prior to the official diagnosis is a time of sheer insanity. You see their brain is changing in such a way they are not the sane person you first married. It is subtle and yet the children become very much in tune with "something is wrong with mommy." This then lead to anxiety.

The first symptom of anxiety in child is sleep deprivation. From there it spirals into sleeping in class, anger, pointed behavior, and eventually rebellion. Time after time I was called to the principal's office due to some mishap or issue when, if I had been able to find some sanity would have been able to connect the dots. I will say I did seek counsel but there were not clear avenues.

Monday, February 16, 2015

Office of Governor Nikki R. Haley
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

My name is Joe Brazeal. The purpose of my letter is to draw your attention to a very important matter regarding children and their life-success possibilities if living under circumstances in terms of their primary guardian being impaired in some way be it mental or physical.

I have enclosed a copy of a letter I sent President Obama regarding this matter.

To be concise and having "lived" through and am living through being the primary care giver of my wife, Kim, of 27 years I can tell you that it is important to offer hope.

I do not represent any organization nor do I have any motive other than helping others. I have taken upon myself to contact every Governor in these United States with the same request.

What I am asking is if you would reach out to your colleagues to consider an awareness program to those that meet children on a day to day basis so that these "children" of the lost do not eventually lose hope and fail. My proposal is as simple as adding a "question" on all exit exams so that those on the front lines can intervene in a positive way. This is not a change that would incur cost to the citizens but would signal that there is hope.

I believe by taking preventative action now for those families now will reduce the number "aging" through the process by cutting the numbers that end up in the "Principal's office," juvenile detention, jail and prison. Children without hope have anxiety and anger problems.

Based on my own experience and looking back having raised three children who are now ages 17, 21, and 23 I can tell you without a doubt had there been some "kind" intervention along the way their outcome would have been different. I am not being critical of the system. I am suggesting positive improvement. Truly we have come a long, long way in this country.

I would be most honored and appreciative if I can be of assistance should there be any questions. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of your colleagues for further clarification and/or explanation. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,


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