

## Chicago Tribune: An Amber Alert for seniors?

On Friday, the Chicago Tribune posted an article about the growing need for the implementation of a Silver Alert system. Gus's bill was highlighted as a possible solution.

From The Tribune...

Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.) wants to see Silver Alert activated in every state, particularly in Florida, which leads the nation in residents 65 and older. Moved by Zelter's story, last month he introduced a bill called The Silver Alert Grant Program of 2008. If enacted, it would award all states and U.S. territories grants of at least \$100,000 as seed money to jump-start Silver Alert programs.

According to Peter Reed, senior director of programs for the Chicago-based national office of the Alzheimer's Association, the number of Americans with Alzheimer's disease "is expected to explode from 5 million [currently] to up to 16 million by 2050."

"For somebody with Alzheimer's disease, the data show 6 out of 10 will wander during the course of the disease. If they're not found within 24 hours, as many as half will suffer serious injury or death," Reed said. [Read more...](#)

On Tuesday, June 3rd, Gus will be holding a press conference with state legislators and local elderly and Alzheimer's advocates to highlight his legislation (H.R. 5898) to create a federal Silver Alert Program and how such a program would bolster efforts toward implementing a Silver Alert system in Florida.