



The Honorable Gregg Harper  
2227 Rayburn House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kathy Castor  
2052 Rayburn House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

September 18, 2017

Dear Representatives Harper and Castor:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association and the Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM), including our nationwide network of advocates, thank you for your continued leadership on issues and legislation important to Americans with Alzheimer's and other dementias, and to their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association and AIM are pleased to support the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act of 2017, H.R. 3759. This bipartisan bill would require the development and implementation of a coordinated national strategy to recognize and support family caregivers.

More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease and without significant action, as many as 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's by 2050. Today, another person develops the disease every 66 seconds; by 2050, someone in the United States will develop the disease every 33 seconds. This explosive growth will cause Alzheimer's costs to increase from an estimated \$259 billion in 2017 to \$1.1 trillion in 2050 (in 2017 dollars). These mounting costs threaten to bankrupt families, businesses and our health care system.

In addition to its economic impact, Alzheimer's places a tremendous burden on caregivers since caregiving can be an emotionally, physically and financially draining role. In 2016, 15.9 million unpaid caregivers provided 18.2 billion hours of care valued at more than \$230 billion. Caregivers of people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias also report higher levels of stress, depression and worse health outcomes when compared to others who are providing care to individuals without dementia. As a result, Alzheimer's caregivers incurred \$10.9 billion in additional health costs last year.

The RAISE Family Caregivers Act would provide much needed support to these caregivers by facilitating the creation of a family caregiving strategy to address the many issues facing caregivers today including: education and training, long-term services and supports, and financial stability and security.

The Alzheimer's Association and AIM deeply appreciate your continued leadership on behalf of all Americans living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues to improve care and support for individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. If you have any questions about this or any other legislation, please contact Rachel Conant, Senior Director of Federal Affairs, at [rconant@alz-aim.org](mailto:rconant@alz-aim.org) or at 202.638.7121..

Sincerely,

Robert Egge  
Chief Public Policy Officer  
Executive Vice President, Government Affairs  
Alzheimer's Association

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