



The Honorable Mike Coffman
2443 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Pete Sessions
2233 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
1314 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

March 23, 2018

Dear Representatives Coffman, Sessions and McMorris Rodgers:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association and the Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM), including our nationwide networks 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. AIM and the Alzheimer's Association are pleased to support *the Medical Improvement of Neurodegenerative Diseases (MIND) Act of 2018*. This legislation would establish Alzheimer's Disease research, education and clinical centers at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and, without significant action, nearly 14 million Americans will have Alzheimer's by 2050. Today, another person develops the disease every 65 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 \$277 billion in 2018 to \$1.1 trillion in 2050 (in 2018 dollars). These mounting costs threaten to bankrupt families, businesses and our health care system. Unfortunately, our work is only growing more urgent.

The MIND Act directs the Department of Veterans' Affairs to establish at least 3 VA healthcare facilities to focus on Alzheimer's disease research, education, and clinical activities and requires a scientific specialization in research likely to be transformative. Additionally, the legislation specifically requires research on the connection between Down syndrome and Alzheimer's Disease. The MIND Act requires a peer review panel to assess the scientific and clinical merit of proposals for the research, education and clinical centers.

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 or at 202.638.7121.

Sincerely,

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

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