



The Honorable Brett Guthrie
U.S. House of Representatives
2434 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Paul Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
2463 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chris Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Maxine Waters
U.S. House of Representatives
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 6, 2017

Dear Representatives Guthrie, Tonko, Smith and Waters:

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. The Alzheimer's Association and AIM are pleased to support the bipartisan Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act, which would create an Alzheimer's public health infrastructure across the country to implement effective Alzheimer's interventions focused on public health issues such as increasing early detection and diagnosis, reducing risk and preventing avoidable hospitalizations.

More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's 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. Unfortunately, our work is only growing more urgent.

As scientists continue to search for a way to prevent, cure, or slow the progression of Alzheimer's through medical research, public health plays an important role in promoting cognitive function and reducing the risk of cognitive decline. Investing in a nationwide Alzheimer's public health response will help create population-level change, achieve a higher quality of life for those living with the disease and their caregivers, and reduce associated costs. The BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act would provide this crucial investment by establishing Alzheimer's centers of excellence across the country and funding state, local and tribal public health departments to increase early detection and diagnosis, reduce risk, prevent avoidable hospitalizations, reduce health disparities, support the needs of caregivers and support care planning for people living with the disease. These important public health actions allow individuals with Alzheimer's to live in their homes longer and delay costly institutionalized care. These goals are consistent with the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease*, which includes a strategy to "work with state, tribal, and local governments to improve coordination and identify model initiatives to advance Alzheimer's disease and related dementias awareness and readiness across the government."

The BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act would also increase the collection, analysis and timely reporting of Alzheimer's data. This data is critical to identifying opportunities for public health interventions, helping stakeholders track progress in the public health response, and enabling state and federal policymakers to make informed decisions when developing plans and policies. Finally, the bill would also strengthen implementation of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's *Public Health Road Map*, which includes strategic action items for state and local public health departments and their partners to promote cognitive functioning, address cognitive impairment and help meet the needs of care partners.

The Alzheimer's Association and AIM deeply appreciate your continued leadership on behalf of all American's living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. We look forward to working with you to advance this important bipartisan bill. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Egge', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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