



The Honorable Eliot Engel  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2462 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
U.S. Senate  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Reed  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2437 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
U.S. Senate  
172 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

March 24, 2017

Dear Representative Engel, Representative Reed, Senator Baldwin and Senator Capito,

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 proudly support the *Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act* (S. 693/H.R. 1676) and its goal of ensuring a high-quality palliative care and hospice workforce.

As some of our nation's strongest voices on behalf of Americans living with Alzheimer's, you know that more than 5 million Americans are living with the disease and, without significant action, as many as 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's by 2050. Every 66 seconds, someone in the U.S. develops Alzheimer's. By 2050, someone in the U.S. will develop the disease every 33 seconds. This explosive growth will cause Alzheimer's costs to Medicare and Medicaid to increase from \$175 billion in 2017 to \$758 billion in 2050 (in 2017 dollars) and threatens to bankrupt families, businesses and our health care system. Unfortunately, our work is only growing more urgent.

Alzheimer's is a progressive, neurodegenerative and fatal disease for which there is currently no treatment or cure. Palliative and hospice care can improve both the quality of care and quality of life for those with advanced dementia. A recent study shows that nursing home residents with dementia who receive palliative care at the end of life, compared with those who do not receive such care, are up to 15 times less likely to die in a hospital, nearly 2.5 times less likely to have a hospitalization in the last 30 days of life, and up to 4.6 times less likely to have an emergency room visit in the last week of life. Individuals with advanced dementia who are enrolled in hospice have a lower rate of dying in the hospital, a lower rate of hospitalization in the last 30 days of life, and better symptom management. Additionally, nearly half of all people with dementia die in hospice care.

The Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act would ensure an adequate, well-trained palliative care workforce through workforce training, education and awareness, and enhanced research. In addition, the legislation is consistent with recommendations made by the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Care, Research, and Services.

The Alzheimer's Association and AIM deeply appreciate your continued leadership on behalf of all American's living with Alzheimer's 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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