



The Honorable Ed Markey
U.S. Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman
U.S. Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

May 2, 2019

Dear Senators Markey and Portman:

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. AIM and the Alzheimer's Association proudly support the Independence at Home Act, which will make the Independence at Home demonstration permanent.

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 \$290 billion in 2019 to more than \$1.1 trillion in 2050 (in 2019 dollars). These mounting costs threaten to bankrupt families, businesses and our health care system. Unfortunately, our work is only growing more urgent.

More than 95 percent of people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias have one or more other chronic condition Medicare beneficiaries who have Alzheimer's or other dementias and a coexisting medical condition have higher average per-person payments for most health care services than Medicare beneficiaries with the same medical condition but without dementia. As a result, care coordination – effective communication among medical and community care providers and connecting an Alzheimer patient and his/her family with the services they need – is crucial to providing better medical care and to increasing the opportunity to remain at home. The Independence at Home model provides high-cost Medicare beneficiaries, including those with Alzheimer's, with coordinated, primary care services in lower-cost settings, rather than more expensive institutional settings.

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