



The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

April 11, 2017

Dear Senators Klobuchar and Collins:

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 Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act (S. 311), which would provide training and support services to caregivers of people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

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, the burden of caring for individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementias extends to millions of Americans caring for those with the disease. In 2016, 15.9 million unpaid caregivers provided 18.2 billion hours of care valued at more than \$230 billion. Alzheimer's caregivers 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 Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act would give these caregivers and their families much needed support by providing grants to public and non-profit organizations to expand and improve training and support services. These services empower caregivers to provide quality care for their loved ones while giving them tools to manage and improve their own health. The bill ensures that grant recipients provide public outreach on the services they offer under this program and that they provide services in a culturally appropriate manner. It also requires that the Secretary of Health and Human Services coordinate with the Office of Minority Health to ensure that women, minorities and medically underserved communities benefit from the program. These important provisions are consistent with the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease*, which calls for enhancing public outreach about Alzheimer's disease resources and services as well as the distribution of culturally-sensitive materials to individuals and families facing Alzheimer's disease.

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 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 long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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