



The Honorable Joni Ernst
United States Senate
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

May 31, 2017

Dear Senators Ernst, Bennet, Capito and Warren:

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 Credit for Caring Act of 2017 (S. 1151), and its goal of providing assistance to all family caregivers.

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. Nearly half of care contributors – those who are caregivers of someone with Alzheimer's and/or contribute financially to their care – cut back on their own expenses (including food, transportation and medical care) to pay for dementia-related care of a family member or friend. On average, care contributors spend more than \$5,000 per year of their own money (out-of-pocket) to provide care for someone with Alzheimer's or another dementia. Care contributors are 28 percent more likely than other adults to eat less or go hungry because they cannot afford to pay for food. And, among caregivers, 74 percent report they are “somewhat” to “very” concerned about maintaining their own health since becoming a caregiver. The Credit for Caring Act would provide working families with a credit for 30 percent of caregiving expenses up to a maximum of \$3,000 per year, which would help ease the financial burden many caregivers face.

The Alzheimer's Association and AIM deeply appreciate your leadership on issues important to family caregivers. 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