



Congressman Adrian Smith  
U.S. House of Representatives  
320 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Congressman Diane Black  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1131 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Congressman Joe Crowley  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1035 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Congressman Morgan Griffith  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2202 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Congressman Ben Ray Luján  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2231 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

September 14 2018

Dear Representatives Smith, Black, Crowley, Griffith and Luján,

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. The Alzheimer's Association and AIM are pleased to support the Reducing Unnecessary Senior Hospitalizations (RUSH) Act of 2018, H.R. 6502.

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 \$277 billion in 2018 to \$1.1 trillion in 2050 (in 2018 dollars). These mounting costs threaten to bankrupt families, businesses and our health care system. Unfortunately, our work is only growing more urgent.

The RUSH Act would authorize the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a program to reduce and prevent unnecessary hospitalizations and emergency department visits by authorizing a value-based, budget neutral physician group practice model for in-person, on-site emergency medical care provided in skilled nursing facilities. In a current model for these services, approximately 40% of participants enrolled were diagnosed with Alzheimer's or other dementias and over 70% of the activations of services for participants diagnosed with Alzheimer's or other dementias were able to be treated at the skilled nursing facility.

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](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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