



The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Senate Committee on Aging
G-31 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bob Casey
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Aging
628 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

January 29, 2019

Dear Chairwoman Collins and Ranking Member Casey:

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 *Guardianship Accountability Act*.

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.

Guardianship is generally considered when a person living with dementia is no longer able to provide for his or her own care and either the family is unable to agree upon the type of care needed or there is no family. The *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease* Goal 3 is to expand supports for people living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their families. Included in that goal is the strategy to maintain the dignity, safety and rights of people living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The *Guardianship Accountability Act* would add additional protections and resources to meet that goal by establishing a National Online Resource Center on Guardianship to carry out activities related to, but not limited to, publishing best practices on guardianship, collecting and publishing information relevant to guardianship, compiling training materials for guardians. The legislation promotes guardianship oversight and accountability, while encouraging information sharing among state and federal government entities and other relevant organizations. Additional support and guidance for families during this difficult time would be enormously beneficial to people living with Alzheimer's and related dementias.

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

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