



Senator Susan Collins  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

Senator Bob Casey  
393 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

Senator Shelley Moore Capito  
172 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

Senator Doug Jones  
330 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

March 27, 2019

Dear Senators Collins, Casey, Capito and Jones:

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 important to Americans with Alzheimer's and other dementias, and their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association and AIM are pleased to strongly support the Younger-Onset Alzheimer's Disease Act, (S.901/H.R.1903).

More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease and without significant action, as many as 14 million Americans will have Alzheimer's by 2050. Approximately 200,000 Americans with Alzheimer's disease are living with younger-onset (also known as early-onset). Individuals living with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease primarily show symptoms of the disease beginning in their 50s, but some show signs of the disease as early as their 30s or 40s. Individuals living with younger-onset face unique challenges when it comes to family, work, and finances. They may be parenting young children at home, or still be working as the primary income provider for their family. The explosive growth will cause Alzheimer's costs to increase from an estimated \$290 billion in 2017 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

The Older Americans Act (OAA) was enacted to support a range of home and community based services and programs for older Americans, including nutrition services, in-home care, adult day care, and assistance for family caregivers. Programs through OAA are only available for Americans age 60 and older. As a result, individuals living with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease are unable to access these programs. The Younger-Onset Alzheimer's Disease Act would change the OAA to make funding and programs available to Americans under the age of 60 who are living with Alzheimer's or 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 impacted 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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