



The Honorable Richard Durbin
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tim Kaine
United States Senate
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

April 10, 2019

Dear Senators Durbin and Kaine:

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 living with Alzheimer's and other dementias, and to their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association and AIM are proud to support the Supporting America's Caregivers and Families Act (S.1017), which would increase funding, training, and support for millions of caregivers in America, including those caring for people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and, without significant action, nearly 14 million Americans will have Alzheimer's by 2050. This explosive growth will cause Alzheimer's costs to increase from an estimated \$290 billion in 2019 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.

In addition to its economic impact, Alzheimer's takes a devastating toll on caregivers. In 2018, more than 16 million unpaid caregivers provided 18.5 billion hours of care valued at nearly \$234 billion. Caregivers of people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias 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 \$11.8 billion in additional health costs last year. These dedicated caregivers would greatly benefit from increased resources, training, and support to help them navigate the strain of caregiving and improve their health and quality of life.

The Supporting America's Caregivers and Families Act would provide these caregivers much needed resources by increasing funding for the National Family Caregiver Support Program, increase the use of caregiver assessments, and expand the ability of the nation's network of Area Agencies on Aging to partner with health payers to provide case management and other services for seniors. These important actions will enhance support for caregivers through skills building, increased resources and information, respite care, counseling, and other helpful benefits.

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 working with you to advance this bill through reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. 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