



Senator Deb Fischer
U.S. Senate
454 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

June 20, 2019

Dear Senator Fischer:

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 Paid Family Leave Pilot Extension Act, S. 1628.

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 \$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.

The Paid Family Leave Pilot Extension Act would add an additional three years to the employer credit for paid family and medical leave. Additionally, it would require the GAO to study the impact of the tax credit on paid family and medical leave. Unfortunately, the burden of caring for individuals living with Alzheimer's and other dementias extends to millions of Americans. In 2017, 16.1 million family members and friends provided 18.4 billion hours of unpaid care to people with Alzheimer's and other dementias, at an economic value of over \$232 billion. Approximately one-quarter of dementia caregivers are "sandwich generation" caregivers - meaning that they care not only for an aging parent, but also for children under age 18. For a family caregiver to be able to take paid family and medical leave when a loved one living with dementia is in need would greatly help ease the financial burden placed on family caregivers.

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