



The Honorable Tom Udall
United States Senate
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
United States House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

July 9, 2019

Dear Senator Udall and Congresswoman Dingell:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM) and the Alzheimer's Association, 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. AIM and the Alzheimer's Association are pleased to support the bipartisan *Care Corps Demonstration Act* of 2019, which would authorize grants for local care corps programs through which volunteers provide care and companionship to seniors and individuals in need.

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.

This legislation would provide for the establishment and implementation of local care corps programs to provide care services in home and community based settings. An estimated 70 percent of older adults with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias live in the community. Their care needs are met primarily by family members, relatives and friends. As the disease progresses, they require more services including personal care and adult day care. Eventually, if their needs can no longer be met in the community they are may be admitted to a nursing facility. As of 2014, 61 percent of all nursing home residents have a diagnosis of moderate or severe cognitive impairment. However, some of these residents could remain in the community if they received home and community based services necessary to meet their needs and support their primary caregiver. The *Care Corps Demonstration Act* would allow caregivers to stay in the workforce while keeping their loved ones home longer, thus delaying costly institutionalized care.

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