



The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

July 9, 2019

Dear Senators Baldwin and Capito:

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. We write today in support of the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA) and its goal of ensuring a high-quality palliative care and hospice workforce.

More than 5 million Americans are currently living with Alzheimer's and, without significant action, as many as 14 million Americans will have the disease by 2050. This explosive growth will cause Alzheimer's costs to increase from \$290 billion in 2019 to \$1.1 trillion in 2050 (in 2019 dollars) and threatens to bankrupt families, businesses and our health care system. Unfortunately, our work is only growing more urgent.

Alzheimer's is a progressive, neurodegenerative and fatal disease for which there is currently no treatment or cure. Palliative and hospice care can improve both the quality of care and quality of life for those with advanced dementia. A recent study shows that nursing home residents with dementia who receive palliative care at the end of life, compared with those who do not receive such care, are up to 15 times less likely to die in a hospital, nearly 2.5 times less likely to have a hospitalization in the last 30 days of life, and up to 4.6 times less likely to have an emergency room visit in the last week of life. Individuals with advanced dementia who are enrolled in hospice have a lower rate of dying in the hospital, a lower rate of hospitalization in the last 30 days of life, and better symptom management. Additionally, nearly half of all people with dementia die in hospice care.

PCHETA would ensure an adequate, well-trained palliative care workforce through workforce training, education and awareness, and enhanced research. In addition, the legislation is consistent with recommendations made by the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Care, Research, and Services at the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Alzheimer's Association and AIM deeply appreciate your continued leadership on behalf of all Americans living with Alzheimer's 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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