



The Honorable Tim Kaine
U.S. Senate
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
U.S. Senate
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

October 16, 2019

Dear Senators Kaine and Hassan:

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 their caregivers. AIM and the Alzheimer's Association proudly support the Direct CARE Opportunity Act (S.2521) to invest in training and employment advancement opportunities for America's direct care workers.

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.

By 2030, there will be a projected 74 million Americans aged 65 and older who will make up more than 20 percent of the total U.S. population. Direct care workers can be found in a variety of settings including residential care, hospitals, nursing facilities, and home and community-based settings and can help with critical activities of daily living like bathing, dressing, grooming and toileting. These providers help to shape the daily lives of those living with Alzheimer's and related dementias, including their preferences, behaviors and functioning. However, the ability of these health care professionals to provide quality dementia care is jeopardized due to high levels of turnover and job dissatisfaction due to low pay, poor working conditions, and few opportunities for career advancement. The Direct CARE Opportunity Act would address the need for a prepared, well-trained, and empowered direct care workforce now and for the future by investing in training and employment advancement for America's direct care workers.

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, Vice President 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