



The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 12, 2020

Dear Chairwoman Lowey:

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 dementia, and to their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association and AIM write today in support of the numerous provisions in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act that could benefit people living with Alzheimer's, and their caregivers.

People living with Alzheimer's and other dementia are at increased risk of having serious complications relating to COVID-19 due to their typical age and likelihood of coexisting conditions. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), older adults and those with serious chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes and lung disease are at higher risk of getting very sick from this virus. There are currently 5.8 million Americans age 65 or older living with Alzheimer's dementia and more than 95 percent of people with the disease have one or more other chronic conditions. This includes 38 percent of people with Alzheimer's that also have heart disease and 37 percent that also have diabetes.

There are also over 16 million Americans providing unpaid care for loved ones living with Alzheimer's and other dementia. In 2019, these caregivers provided an estimated 18.6 billion hours of care valued at nearly \$244 billion. Approximately one-quarter of these caregivers are "sandwich generation" caregivers, meaning that they care not only for an aging parent, but also for children under age 18.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act could benefit people living with Alzheimer's and other dementia and their caregivers in multiple ways. First, in certain situations, the bill would provide paid leave to those who contract the virus and provide paid leave for people that care for someone who contracts the virus. This also includes people engaged in caregiving for people in a care facility or care program that closes due to COVID-19, or for other individuals unable to provide self-care. This could be especially beneficial in light of the 31 percent of individuals using adult day services that have Alzheimer's or other dementia. Providing paid leave to these caregivers would greatly help ease the financial and emotional burden placed on them during this particularly vulnerable time. Furthermore, the bill provides an additional \$250 million for Aging and Disability Services Programs like Home-Delivered Nutrition Services, Congregate Nutrition Services, and Nutrition Services for Native Americans. These important programs are beneficial for people living with Alzheimer's and other dementia who need assistance with activities of daily living.

Again, the Alzheimer's Association and AIM deeply appreciate your continued leadership on behalf of all Americans living with Alzheimer's and other dementia. 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,

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

Cc: Speaker Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy