



The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
United States House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

May 12, 2020

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

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 in strong support of the Quality Care for Nursing Home Residents and Workers During COVID-19 Act (H.R. 6698/S. 3644), which would help protect the health and well-being of nursing home residents and workers during the coronavirus pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to create additional challenges for people living with dementia, their families and caregivers. These challenges are particularly being felt in long-term care settings. Nursing homes and assisted living communities are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 crisis, where 48 percent of nursing home residents are living with dementia, and 42 percent of residents in residential care facilities have Alzheimer's or another dementia. Residents with dementia are particularly susceptible to COVID-19 due to their typical age, their significantly increased likelihood of coexisting chronic conditions, and the community nature of long-term care settings. Across the country these facilities, their staff, and their residents are experiencing a crisis due to a lack of transparency, an inability to access the necessary testing, inaccurate reporting and more. According to some estimates, more than 27,000 residents and workers have died from the coronavirus at nursing homes and other long-term care communities.

The Quality Care for Nursing Home Residents and Workers During COVID-19 Act would help protect this vulnerable population by increasing infection prevention, quality of care, and worker safety; providing funding for state "strike teams" to deploy to the hardest hit nursing homes; and mandating the transparency and timely reporting of COVID-19 cases and fatalities. Importantly, the bill would also help combat social isolation by ensuring residents are able to stay connected with friends and family during this pandemic when physical access to facilities is restricted. These crucial provisions are consistent with the Alzheimer's Association's recently released policy recommendations, [*Improving the State and Federal Response to COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Settings*](#).

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 stroke extending to the right.

Robert Egge
Chief Public Policy Officer
Executive Vice President, Government Affairs
Alzheimer's Association