



The Honorable Josh Gottheimer
U.S. House of Representatives
213 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

May 12, 2020

Dear Representatives Gottheimer and Smith:

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 strong support of the Nursing Home Pandemic Protection Act which would codify important nursing home provisions during this time of need.

As the nation continues to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, people living with dementia, their families, and caregivers continue to work through additional challenges. 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% of nursing home residents are living with dementia, and 42% of residents in residential care facilities, including assisted living communities, 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 these settings.

This legislation would codify important nursing home provisions including crisis management plans and personal protective equipment (PPE). The Alzheimer's Association has released new policy recommendations, *Improving the State and Federal Response to COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Settings*, which address the immediate and long-term issues impacting care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The four specific policy recommendations to respond to the crisis are: enhance testing in long-term care community settings; implement necessary reporting; develop protocols to respond to a rise in cases; and ensure all facilities have necessary equipment, for example PPE. This bill offers solutions to address the immediate challenges facilities are facing and works to protect residents.

Again, 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, 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