



The Honorable Anna Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
202 Cannon House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

May 29, 2020

Dear Representatives Eshoo and 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 today in strong support of the Nursing Home COVID-19 Protection and Prevention Act (H.R. 6972) which aims to protect residents and assist nursing homes during the COVID-19 public health crisis.

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 28,000 residents and workers have died from the coronavirus at nursing homes and other long-term care communities.

The Nursing Home COVID-19 Protection and Prevention Act would help protect this vulnerable population by providing \$20 billion in emergency funding to States, Territories and Indian Tribes to support nursing homes and intermediate care facilities. The bill would accomplish this by cohorting based on COVID-19 status, and providing funds for staffing, testing, personal protective equipment (PPE) and other essential needs. Additionally it would require the Department of Health and Human Services to collect and publish data on COVID-19 cases and deaths in nursing homes and intermediate care facilities and to issue a report analyzing the characteristics of nursing homes with COVID-19 outbreaks and deaths. The bill also establishes essential and ongoing oversight, including monthly briefings for Congress and an Office of the Inspector General (OIG) report on the Administration's response to the spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes and intermediate care facilities nationwide. 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 LongTerm 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 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,

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