

The Honorable Jahana Hayes  
United States House of Representatives  
1415 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515



June 23, 2020

Dear Representative Hayes:

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 support of the Reducing COVID-19 Disparities by Investing in Public Health Act (H.R. 6638), which would provide additional federal funding to reduce persistent health disparities that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and, without significant action, nearly 14 million Americans will have Alzheimer's by 2050. This explosive growth will cause Alzheimer's costs to increase from an estimated \$305 billion in 2020 to more than \$1.1 trillion in 2050 (in 2020 dollars). These mounting costs threaten to bankrupt families, businesses, and our health care system. Unfortunately, our work is only growing more urgent.

Alzheimer's and other dementia disproportionately affect older blacks/African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos than older whites. Black/African Americans are two to three times more likely to develop Alzheimer's than whites, and Hispanics/Latinos are one to two times more likely to develop Alzheimer's than whites. In addition, 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.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed health differences that exist between racial and ethnic groups due to economic and social conditions. During public health emergencies, these conditions can isolate people from the resources needed to prepare and keep their families safe. The Reducing COVID-19 Disparities by Investing in Public Health Act would provide much-needed funding to address these health disparities, by doubling the federal investment in the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Fund at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, the Offices of Minority Health, and other agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

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

with you to advance this bill and help address the longstanding health disparities in our communities, both during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. 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](mailto:rconant@alz-aim.org) or at 202.638.7121.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RE', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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