



The Honorable Brian Higgins
U.S. House of Representatives
2459 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Greg Steube
U.S. House of Representatives
521 Cannon House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

July 27, 2020

Dear Representatives Higgins and Steube,

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 people living with Alzheimer's and other dementia, and to their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association and AIM write today in support of the Senior Health Planning Account Act, H.R. 5958, which would help policyowners use life insurance assets they already own to plan for health care costs.

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 as high as \$1.1 trillion in 2050 (in 2020 dollars). As the population of Americans age 65 and older grows, these mounting costs threaten to bankrupt families, businesses and our health care system. Unfortunately, our work is only growing more urgent. Even for those people who are covered by Medicare, beneficiaries spend a large portion of their income on out-of-pocket expenses. On average, Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older with Alzheimer's or other dementias paid \$11,068 out of pocket annually for health care and long-term care services not covered by other sources.

The Senior Health Planning Account Act would permit policyowners to roll over, without tax, life settlement proceeds into Senior Health Planning Accounts, which may be used only for qualified medical expenses. The bill would help seniors and other policyowners use underutilized life insurance assets to help plan for medical expenses without having to wait until after they are seriously ill. This bill would allow older Americans to feel more secure financially with medical expenses. Thank you for taking a big step forward on working to address the need for health care costs by creating the ability to use life insurance assets for qualified medical expenses.

We look forward to working with you this Congress to improve the quality of care for people living with Alzheimer's while lowering costs. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Conant, Vice President, 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