



The Honorable Pat Toomey
U.S. Senate
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

September 30, 2020

Dear Senator Toomey,

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 dementias, and to their caregivers. We write in support of the Long-Term Care Affordability Act. Thank you for taking a big step forward on working to address the need for long-term care insurance by creating the ability to use retirement plan funds to obtain long-term care insurance.

More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and, without significant action, nearly 14 million Americans will develop the disease by 2050. Today, another person develops the disease every 65 seconds; by 2050, someone in the United States will develop the disease every 33 seconds. This explosive growth will cause Alzheimer's costs to increase from an estimated \$290 billion in 2019 to \$1.1 trillion in 2050 (in 2019 dollars). As the population of Americans age 65 and older grows, these costs will mount, threatening to bankrupt families, businesses, and our health care system. Unfortunately, our work is only growing more urgent.

The bill would help individuals better plan for the future by allowing retirement plan funds to be used to purchase long-term care insurance. Long-term care insurance helps to cover many of the costs of living with Alzheimer's that are not covered by Medicare. Individuals can use long-term care insurance to help cover the cost of residential care facilities, nursing home care, and home care services. The bill also includes language for the Department of Labor to provide outreach to the public about the benefits of this legislation. Too many individuals do not accurately understand how long-term care is financed. Results from the 2016 Alzheimer's Association Family Impact of Alzheimer's Survey revealed that 28 percent of adults believed Medicare covered the cost of nursing home care for people with Alzheimer's, and 37 percent did not know whether it covered the cost of nursing home care. While the draft bill would expand options for individuals, having those additional options does not resolve the problem of an individual not realizing they need to purchase long-term care insurance in the first place. Should the government undertake an education campaign, it should include the basics of long-term care, who pays for it, and the options available to the public. In implementing such a campaign, the federal government could provide funding and then partner with states on outreach efforts.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Egge', written over a horizontal line.

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