



The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

February 2, 2021

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

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 with Alzheimer's and other dementias, and to their caregivers. AIM and the Alzheimer's Association are pleased to support the Americans Giving Care To Elders (AGE) Act. This legislation would provide a tax credit to help offset expenses associated with caring for an aging relative of up to \$6,000 per year.

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.

The burden of caring for individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementias extends to millions of Americans caring for those with the disease. In 2020, more than 16 million unpaid caregivers provided 18.6 billion hours of care valued at nearly \$244 billion. Alzheimer's takes a devastating toll on caregivers. Compared with caregivers of people without dementia, twice as many caregivers of those with dementia indicate substantial emotional, financial and physical difficulties.

Nearly half of care contributors - those who are caregivers of someone with Alzheimer's and/or contribute financially to their care - cut back on their own expenses (including food, transportation, and medical care) to pay for dementia-related care of a family member or friend. On average, care contributors spend more than \$5,000 per year of their own money to provide care for someone with Alzheimer's or other dementia. Care contributors are 28 percent more likely than other adults to eat less or go hungry because they cannot afford to pay for food. The AGE Act would support these family caregivers by creating a tax credit of up to \$6,000 per year to help offset elder care expenses, which would help ease the financial burden many caregivers face.

The Alzheimer's Association and AIM deeply appreciate your continued leadership on behalf of all Americans living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues to improve care and support for individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. If you have any questions about this or any other legislation, please contact Rachel Conant, Senior Director 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