



The Honorable Bob Casey  
U.S. Senate  
393 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

February 24, 2021

Dear Senator Casey:

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 COVID-19 Nursing Home Protection Act 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 170,000 residents and workers have died from the coronavirus at nursing homes and other long term care communities.

The COVID-19 Nursing Home Protection Act would provide \$750 million in funding to States for the purpose of establishing and implementing strike teams to ensure a sufficient number of aides, nurses, and other providers are available to care for residents. The bill would guarantee that \$210 million is available to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to contract with quality improvement organizations to provide essential infection control assistance to nursing homes. Lastly, the bill would require HHS to collect and post on the Nursing Home Compare website demographic data on COVID-19 cases and deaths among nursing home residents and workers, including information on age, race, ethnicity and preferred language. 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 Long Term 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 dementia. 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,

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