



The Honorable Maxine Waters
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2021

Dear Representatives Waters and Smith:

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 their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association and AIM strongly supports the bipartisan Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act which would provide much needed relief for our nation's caregivers.

An estimated 6.2 million Americans age 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's dementia in 2021. Total payments for all individuals with Alzheimer's or other dementias are estimated at \$355 billion (not including unpaid caregiving) in 2021. Medicare and Medicaid are expected to cover \$239 billion or 67% of the total health care and long-term care payments for people with Alzheimer's or other dementias. Total payments for health care, long-term care and hospice care for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias are projected to increase to more than \$1.1 trillion in 2050. 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 11 million unpaid caregivers provided 15.3 billion hours of care valued at nearly \$257 billion. Alzheimer's caregivers also report higher levels of stress, depression and worse health outcomes when compared to others who are providing care to individuals without dementia. The physical and emotional impact of dementia caregiving is estimated to have resulted in \$11.8 billion in health care costs in the United States in 2018. The unique challenges and needs of dementia caregiving and the impact of dementia requires comprehensive and robust action for this large and growing number of caregivers. The more caregivers understand Alzheimer's disease or other dementia, the better they can care for their loved ones and themselves.

The Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act would give these caregivers and their families much needed support by providing grants to public and non-profit organizations to expand and improve training and support services. These services empower caregivers to provide quality care for their loved ones while giving them tools to manage and improve their own health. 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 working with you to advance this bill. 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