



The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

April 21, 2021

Dear Senators Stabenow and Capito:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association and the Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM), including our nationwide networks 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. The Alzheimer's Association and AIM strongly support the bipartisan Comprehensive Care for Alzheimer's Act (S. 1125/H.R. 2517) which would ask the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) to implement a dementia care management model.

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 the 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. Given how wide-ranging dementia care can be, such as looking for primary care doctors and specialists to non-medical needs like daily care and handling finances, a dementia care management model would seriously benefit those living with Alzheimer's, as well as their families and caregivers. By providing this population with a more comprehensive understanding of the services available to them, better healthcare outcomes are possible and a decrease in overall costs are too.

The Comprehensive Care for Alzheimer's Act would ask CMMI to implement a dementia care management model to test the effectiveness of comprehensive care management services for persons with dementia. The model would establish high standards of care, pay providers a monthly amount based on the complexity and quality of patient care, ensure caregivers are supported, and require outreach to underrepresented populations. 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 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