



The Honorable Thomas Suozzi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

August 5, 2021

Dear Representative Suozzi,

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 Well-Being Insurance for Seniors to be at Home (WISH) Act, H.R. 4289, which would allow seniors to age at home if they wish instead of spending down savings to enter Medicaid funded nursing homes.

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

As the disease progresses, individuals living with Alzheimer's typically require a more advanced level of care, known as long-term care, because their needs exceed what the person's family can reasonably provide. This type of care can range from in home assistance to skilled care in a residential care community. While private insurance and government resources may help cover some expenses, it's common for individuals and their families to have to pay out of pocket for some services, such as respite, home health and nursing home care. The WISH Act would create a public private partnership to provide long-term care insurance for older adults so they can age at home.

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,

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