



The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Todd Young
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

September 22, 2021

Dear Senators Stabenow and Young:

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 to support the bipartisan Choose Home Care Act of 2021, S. 2562, which would expand Medicare beneficiaries options to receive enhanced home-based services and care after a hospitalization.

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.

Individuals living with Alzheimer's and dementia often face the increased likelihood that they will encounter a hospitalization. After a hospitalization, many individuals living with Alzheimer's or other dementia require additional care which is only available through a nursing home or a skilled nursing facility. The Choose Home Care Act would allow eligible Medicare beneficiaries to opt in to receive home-based extended care after a hospital discharge. Beneficiaries would be able to choose between a skilled nursing facility or up to 30 days of expanded skilled and at-home services under benefit. This legislation would allow Medicare beneficiaries flexibility to receive care from the comfort of their homes, and provides a more cost efficient alternative service to skilled nursing facilities. The flexibility allowed under this legislation would let individuals living with Alzheimer's and other dementia and their families to choose what works best for them after a hospitalization.

The Alzheimer's Association and AIM deeply appreciate your continued leadership which directly benefits 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 or at 202.638.7121.

Sincerely,

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