



The Honorable Jacky Rosen
United States Senate
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tina Smith
United States Senate
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

October 5, 2021

Dear Senators Rosen, Murkowski 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 to their caregivers. We write today in support of the bipartisan Provider Training in Palliative Care Act (S. 2890), which would increase access to providers who provide palliative care for individuals across the country.

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 and other dementia are estimated at \$355 billion (not including unpaid caregiving) in 2021. Medicare and Medicaid are expected to cover \$239 billion or 67 percent 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 other dementia are often faced with navigating complex medical needs, particularly as their condition progresses. Palliative care is a growing need of speciality medical support, focusing on improving the quality of life for both individuals and their families throughout the course of a serious illness. Unfortunately, there is a nationwide shortage of healthcare providers who have sufficient training in palliative care, particularly in underserved communities. The bipartisan Provider Training in Palliative Care Act allows for National Health Service Corps (NHSC) participants to defer their service for up to one year in order to pursue a palliative fellowship or palliative training opportunity. This training would directly benefit communities where these healthcare professionals choose to practice, and would maximize the benefits of services to individuals in need of palliative care, including those living with Alzheimer's and other dementia.

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