



The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
The Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bob Casey
Chairman
The Senate Special Committee on Aging
G16 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

April 28, 2023

Dear Chairman Wyden and Chairman Casey:


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 to express our support for the Elder Justice Reauthorization and Modernization Act of 2023 (S. 1198), which would reauthorize the Elder Justice Act (EJA) programs created to address the need for prevention, detection, and treatment of abuse of seniors and adults with disabilities.

The burden of Alzheimer's on individuals and families continues to grow. More Americans are living with the disease – there are an estimated 6.7 million Americans age 65 and older living with Alzheimer's in 2023. By 2050, that number is expected to rise to nearly 13 million. These individuals are at heightened risk for experiencing elder abuse. Elder abuse is the intentional or negligent act by any person that causes serious harm to an older adult. This harm may be physical, mental, emotional, sexual, and/or financial. It is estimated that one in 10 Americans age 60 and older has experienced some form of elder abuse, yet only about one in 24 cases of abuse are reported to authorities. People living with Alzheimer's and other dementia are especially vulnerable because the disease may prevent them from reporting it or recognizing the abuse.

As our population ages and the prevalence of Alzheimer's and other dementias increases, it is critical that we work to protect older Americans from abuse, particularly people living with Alzheimer's and other dementia. The Elder Justice Reauthorization and Modernization Act of 2023 would address these issues by reauthorizing programs included in the EJA, and creating three new programs that aim to address social isolation, provide new support for Medical-Legal partnerships, and invest in post-acute and long-term care workforce training. Existing programs authorized by the EJA help to coordinate federal responses to elder abuse, provide protections in long-term care facilities, and promote elder justice initiatives.

The Alzheimer's Association and AIM appreciate the steadfast support for older Americans and their caregivers and the continued commitment to advancing issues important to the millions of families affected by Alzheimer's and other dementia. We look forward to working with the Committees in a bipartisan way to address the challenges facing the dementia community. If you have questions about this or any other legislation, please contact Sarah Tellock, Director of Congressional Affairs, at stellock@alz-aim.org or at 202.638.8676.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel M. Conant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachel Conant
Vice President, Federal Affairs
Alzheimer's Association