



THE BRAINS BEHIND SAVING YOURS.™

July 7, 2016

The Honorable Ed Markey  
United States Senate  
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
517 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
United States Senate  
261 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman  
United States Senate  
448 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey, Senator Cornyn, Senator Bennet and Senator Portman,

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, thank you for your leadership on issues of importance to Americans with Alzheimer's disease. The Alzheimer's Association proudly supports the Independence at Home Act, which will make the Independence at Home demonstration permanent.

The Alzheimer's Association is the world's leading voluntary health organization on Alzheimer's care, support and research. As you know, today there are more than 5 million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease, which is the sixth leading cause of death and the only cause of death in the top 10 without a way to prevent, cure or even slow its progression. Alzheimer's disease is the most costly disease in the United States and is set to increase like no other. In 2016, the cost of caring for those with Alzheimer's disease will reach \$236 billion, and is expected to grow to \$1.1 trillion by 2050. Without significant breakthroughs in the development of treatments or a cure, it is projected that as many as 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's by 2050.

More than 85 percent of people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias have one or more other chronic condition. Additionally, a person with Alzheimer's or another dementia is more than 5.5 times as likely to have six or more other chronic conditions as someone without Alzheimer's or another dementia. As a result, care coordination – effective communication among medical and community care providers and connecting an Alzheimer patient and his/her family with the services they need – is crucial to providing better medical care and to increasing the opportunity to remain at home. Independence at Home provides high-cost Medicare beneficiaries, including those with Alzheimer's, with coordinated, primary care services in lower-cost settings, rather than more expensive institutional settings.

The Alzheimer's Association appreciates your continued leadership on behalf of all Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. If you have any questions about this or any other legislation, please contact Rachel Conant, Director of Federal Affairs, at [rconant@alz.org](mailto:rconant@alz.org) or 202.638.7121.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Egge".

Robert Egge  
Executive Vice President, Government Affairs  
Alzheimer's Association