



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

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

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

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

April 6, 2017

Dear Senators Markey, Portman, Bennet and Cornyn:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association and the Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM), including our nationwide networks of advocates, thank you for your continued leadership on issues and legislation important to Americans with Alzheimer's and other dementias, and to their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association and AIM are pleased to support the Independence at Home Act of 2017 (S. 464), which would increase access to high-quality, home-based care for Medicare beneficiaries living with multiple chronic conditions by making the Independence at Home demonstration permanent.

More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease and without significant action, as many as 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's by 2050. Today, another person develops the disease every 66 seconds; by 2050, someone in the United States will develop the disease every 33 seconds. This explosive growth will cause Alzheimer's costs to increase from an estimated \$259 billion in 2017 to \$1.1 trillion in 2050 (in 2017 dollars). These mounting costs threaten to bankrupt families, businesses and our health care system. Unfortunately, our work is only growing more urgent.

Improving access to high-quality, home-based care for people with multiple chronic conditions is especially important for people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. More than 85 percent of people with Alzheimer's and other dementias have one or more other chronic conditions. In fact, 26 percent of Medicare beneficiaries with Alzheimer's or other dementias have five or more chronic conditions, compared with 3.8 percent of Medicare beneficiaries without Alzheimer's or other dementias. 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, improving quality of life and increasing the opportunity to remain at home.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation's Independence at Home demonstration provides quality home-based primary care to chronically ill Medicare beneficiaries. This demonstration has already proven to be successful – in its first two performance years, participating practices saved over \$32 million. By making this demonstration program permanent, the Independence at Home Act of 2017 will increase patients' quality of care and quality of life, while lowering health care costs by allowing people to remain in their homes longer.

The Alzheimer's Association and AIM deeply appreciate your continued leadership on behalf of all American's living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. We look forward to working with you to advance this bill. If you have any questions about this or any other legislation, please contact Rachel Conant, Senior Director of Federal Affairs, at rconant@alz-aim.org or at 202.638.7121.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Egge', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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