



Senator Joe Manchin III
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

December 20, 2013

Dear Senator Manchin:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association and its nationwide network of advocates, thank you for your continued leadership on issues and legislation important to Americans with Alzheimer's and their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association proudly supports your most recent Alzheimer's bill, S. 1814, the National Silver Alert Act of 2013.

The Alzheimer's Association is the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease and other dementias through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's.

As one of our nation's strongest voices on behalf of Americans living with Alzheimer's, you know that more than 5 million Americans are living with the disease, and without significant action, as many as 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's by 2050. A recent study funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* further confirmed that Alzheimer's disease is the most expensive disease in America. Additionally, as the baby boomer generation ages, one in eight will develop Alzheimer's. This explosive growth will cause Alzheimer's costs to Medicare and Medicaid to increase from \$142 billion today to more than \$800 billion in 2050 (in today's dollars) and threatens to bankrupt families, businesses and our health care system. Unfortunately, our work is only growing more urgent.

The Alzheimer's Association supports the National Silver Alert Act, which assists in developing and improving coordinated communication networks in states to help find missing seniors, including individuals with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. As you know, wandering can be dangerous - even life threatening - for the person who wanders, and the stress can weigh heavily on caregivers and family. Sixty percent of individuals with Alzheimer's disease will wander at some point, and if not found within the first 24 hours, up to 50 percent of all persons with dementia who wander will suffer serious injury or death.

The Alzheimer's Association deeply appreciates your continued leadership on behalf of all American's living with Alzheimer's. If you have any questions about this or any other legislation, please contact Rachel Conant, Director of Federal Affairs, at rconant@alz.org or at 202.638.7121.

Sincerely,

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

Robert Egge
Vice President, Public Policy