



The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

May 2, 2017

Dear Senators Collins and Baldwin:

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 Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act of 2017. This bipartisan bill would require the development and implementation of a coordinated national strategy to recognize and support family caregivers.

More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's 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.

In addition to its economic impact, Alzheimer's places a tremendous burden on caregivers since caregiving can be an emotionally, physically and financially draining role. In 2016, 15.9 million unpaid caregivers provided 18.2 billion hours of care valued at more than \$230 billion. Caregivers of people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias also report higher levels of stress, depression and worse health outcomes when compared to others who are providing care to individuals without dementia. As a result, Alzheimer's caregivers incurred \$10.9 billion in additional health costs last year.

The RAISE Family Caregivers Act would provide much needed support to these caregivers by facilitating the creation of a national strategy to address the many issues facing caregivers today including: education and training, long-term services and supports, and financial stability and security. Improving assistance for family caregivers will have a positive impact on caregiver health and well-being and will result in a higher quality of care for their loved ones. This legislation is also consistent with the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease*, which seeks to expand and enhance training, education and support for caregivers of people with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

The Alzheimer's Association and AIM deeply appreciate your continued leadership on behalf of all caregivers of people 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 'RE', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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