



THE BRAINS BEHIND SAVING YOURS.™

July 31, 2015

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
513 Hart Senate Office Building
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Toomey
248 Russell Senate Office Building
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Carper and Senator Toomey:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association® and its nationwide network of advocates, thank you for your leadership on issues important to Americans with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, as well as their families and caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association supports the *PACE Innovation Act of 2015* (S. 1362) and its goal of granting additional flexibility for Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) to test new models of care for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

Since the 1970's, the PACE model of care has worked to provide chronically ill elderly individuals, such as those with Alzheimer's disease, with a full continuum of care and support services. PACE integrates medical care, long term services and supports and financing in a patient-centered, consumer-driven model for individuals with disabilities or cognitive impairments, such as Alzheimer's disease. Interdisciplinary care teams work with patients and their families to coordinate these services and to address functional capabilities and needs of the individual. PACE provides these services to individuals in the greatest need; 85 percent of PACE participants are dual-eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, while nearly one-third of individuals with Alzheimer's disease are dually-eligible.

As you know, PACE services are only offered to individuals 55 and older who are state-certified as needing a nursing home level of care. People with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease who are at-risk for needing a nursing home level of care could benefit greatly from this type of community-based, patient-centered, and coordinated care model. Providing individuals with Alzheimer's disease and their families and caregivers with these services can improve their quality of life and allow someone with Alzheimer's disease to potentially live in the community longer, delaying expensive nursing home care that threatens to bankrupt families and put further strain on the Medicaid system. The PACE Innovation Act provides needed flexibility to offer PACE services to individuals under age 55 who are at-risk for needing nursing home care, such as those with younger onset Alzheimer's disease. In addition, allowing PACE to expand these models would support the goals and strategies of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease, which promotes care coordination, the testing of new models of care and improving care for populations previously underserved or disproportionately affected by Alzheimer's disease.

We appreciate your leadership on these issues, and we look forward to working with you to ensure that individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias have access to high-quality, coordinated care. If you have any questions, 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
Executive Vice President of Government Affairs
Alzheimer's Association