



The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

September 19, 2022

Dear Representative Schakowsky,

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association and the Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM), including our nationwide network of advocates, thank you for your continued leadership on issues and legislation important to Americans living with Alzheimer's and other dementia, and to their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association and AIM write today in strong support of the Infrastructure Modernization Project Related to the Overall Enhancement of (IMPROVE) Nursing Homes Act. This legislation would create a grant program to convert traditional nursing homes into small-house nursing homes in an effort to improve quality of care for residents, including those living with Alzheimer's and other dementia.

As you may know, nursing homes have long played a critical role within our healthcare system. At age 80, approximately 75 percent of people with Alzheimer's dementia live in a nursing home compared with only 4 percent of the general population at age 80. In all, an estimated two-thirds of those who die of dementia do so in nursing homes, compared with 20 percent of people with cancer and 28 percent of people dying from all other conditions. It is critical that all residents of nursing homes, including those in skilled nursing facilities and Medicaid nursing facilities, receive consistent, high quality care, especially as people can live for many years in these settings.

Studies have shown that small-house nursing home facilities have the ability to improve the quality of care residents receive by fostering a culture and structure of person-centered care. Also referred to as green-houses, small-house nursing homes can improve quality of life for residents relative to other, often larger, nursing home facilities. Research shows that small-house nursing homes are associated with a decline in avoidable hospitalizations, decreased Medicare spending, and improved satisfaction among residents, including people living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers.

The IMPROVE Nursing Homes Act would provide grants to convert traditional nursing home facilities into small-house nursing homes. Grant recipients would be required to use the funding to provide each resident with a single-occupancy room and private bathroom. Recipients would also be required to maintain high levels of person-centered care and to continue to operate the small-house nursing home for a minimum of 20 years. Studies have shown that

person-centered care improves quality of life, including reducing agitation and depression for people living with Alzheimer's. The bill also includes a provision that would ensure at least 50 percent of grant funding goes to nursing homes where 85 percent or more of residents use Medicaid to pay for their care. We appreciate that this bill aims to address the socioeconomic gap in care for so many low-income seniors seeking quality health care.

Again, the Alzheimer's Association and AIM deeply appreciate your continued leadership on behalf of all Americans living with Alzheimer's and other dementia. If you have any questions about this or any other legislation, please contact Rachel Conant, Vice President 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
Alzheimer's Impact Movement