



The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Chair, Subcommittee on Competition
Policy, Antitrust and Consumer Rights
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

November 2, 2022

Dear Ranking Member Grassley and Subcommittee Chair Klobuchar:

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 dementias, and to their caregivers. We write in support of Kevin and Avonte's Law Reauthorization Act of 2022 (S. 4885/H.R. 8907). This bipartisan legislation reauthorizes the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, among other important priorities, which helps local law enforcement identify and reunite individuals with Alzheimer's disease and their families.

As you know, than 6 million Americans aged 65 and older are currently living with Alzheimer's. By 2050, this number is projected to rise to nearly 13 million. In 2022, Alzheimer's and other dementia will cost the nation \$321 billion, including \$206 billion in Medicare and Medicaid payments combined. Unless a treatment to slow, stop, or prevent the disease is approved and accessible to people, in 2050, Alzheimer's is projected to cost nearly \$1 trillion (in 2022 dollars). Unfortunately our work is only growing more urgent.

As the threat of Alzheimer's continues to touch more people's lives, the safety of these individuals will continue to be of tremendous concern. It is common for a person with dementia to experience profound disorientation and wander from their homes or care facilities, and many do so repeatedly. At least 60 percent of individuals with Alzheimer's disease will wander at some point during their lifetime. Wandering not only affects individuals with dementia – sometimes leading to serious injury or death – but also causes considerable emotional strain on families and caregivers. In some instances, wandering can even endanger the lives of others within the community.

Kevin and Avonte's Law Reauthorization Act of 2022 will help those with Alzheimer's who wander away from their homes and are unable to tell people in the community who they are or where they live. The bill reauthorizes a Department of Justice program that helps local law enforcement officials quickly identify those with Alzheimer's who are lost and reunite them with their families. Reauthorization of the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program is essential to addressing the issue of wandering and Alzheimer's disease, and its impact on individuals with Alzheimer's and their family caregivers, local communities and law enforcement.

Again, the Alzheimer's Association and AIM deeply appreciate your continued leadership on behalf of all Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. We are glad to see this important bipartisan bill unanimously passed the Senate in September and look forward to working with you to reauthorize the law, including the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program. If you have any questions about this or any other legislation, please contact Rachel Conant, Vice President of Federal Affairs, at rconant@alz.org or 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