



The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chair
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
2434 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Ranking Member
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
272 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

February 14, 2024

Dear Chairs Rodgers and Guthrie, and Ranking Members Pallone and Eshoo:

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 to thank the Subcommittee for holding a hearing on legislative proposals to support patients and caregivers, including the bipartisan Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act (H.R. 620/S. 134), which would continue the requirement for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to submit a Professional Judgment Budget (PJB) to Congress, among other provisions.

As you know, the burden of Alzheimer's on individuals and families continues to grow. Today, more than 6 million Americans aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's dementia, and by mid-century, this number is expected to nearly double. Total payments for all individuals living with this disease are estimated at \$345 billion (not including unpaid caregiving). Medicare and Medicaid are expected to cover \$222 billion, or 64 percent of the total health care and long-term care payments for people with Alzheimer's or other dementia. Total payments for health care costs, including hospice care, for people with Alzheimer's and other dementia are projected to increase to nearly \$1.1 trillion by 2050. These mounting costs threaten to bankrupt families, businesses, and our health care system. Unfortunately, our work is only growing more urgent.

Since its passage in 2015, the Alzheimer's Accountability Act has allowed Congress to hear directly from the scientists at the NIH on how much research funding is needed to fully pursue scientific opportunities to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's. In turn, the Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act would continue the requirement for NIH to submit a PJB to Congress describing the annual funds needed to make progress in the fight against Alzheimer's disease for an additional decade. The legislation has strong bipartisan, bicameral support in Congress, and the Subcommittee action today builds upon Senate momentum, following the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee's June 2023 markup of the legislation. Swift passage of the Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act would help further our understanding of the risk factors, genetics, and mechanisms of dementia, helping diversify and de-risk the therapeutic pipeline and expand research on dementia care and care partner support.

The Alzheimer's Association and AIM deeply appreciate your continued leadership on behalf of all Americans living with Alzheimer's and other dementia, and we look forward to working with you to advance this important bipartisan bill. If you have any questions about this or any other legislation, please contact Sarah Tellock, Director of Congressional Affairs, at stellock@alz-aim.org or at 202.638.8676.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel M. Conant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachel Conant
Vice President, Federal Affairs, Alzheimer's Association
Executive Director, Alzheimer's Impact Movement