



The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman, Health Subcommittee
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2434 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Paul Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
2369 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chris Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Maxine Waters
U.S. House of Representatives
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 14, 2024

Dear Chairman Guthrie and Representatives Tonko, Smith, and Waters:

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 dementia, and to their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association and AIM are pleased to support the bipartisan BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Reauthorization Act of 2024 (H.R. 7218/S. 3775), which would reauthorize and extend a nationwide Alzheimer's public health response that will help further population-level improvements, achieve a higher quality of life for those living with the disease and their caregivers, and reduce associated costs.

And, as of 2023, an estimated 6.7 million Americans aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's dementia. Total payments for all individuals with Alzheimer's or other dementia are estimated at \$345 billion (not including unpaid caregiving) in 2023. 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, which are projected to increase to more than \$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.

As scientists continue to search for a way to prevent, cure, or slow the progression of Alzheimer's through medical research, public health plays an important role in promoting cognitive function and reducing the risk of cognitive decline. The BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Reauthorization Act of 2024 would reauthorize the bipartisan 2018 Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act (P.L. 115-406), which is assisting state, local and tribal public health departments in increasing early detection and diagnosis, reducing risk, supporting the needs of caregivers, and supporting care planning for people living with the disease. The BOLD Act has led to great progress in strengthening the Alzheimer's public health infrastructure nationwide. Since 2018, the BOLD Act has allowed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to establish three Public Health Centers of Excellence, each focusing on a priority public health area of need: dementia risk reduction, early detection of dementia, and dementia caregiving. Public Health Centers of Excellence play a key role in identifying and

disseminating research findings and population-level best practices and providing technical support to state, local, and tribal public health officials. The CDC has also provided 66 awards to 45 state, local, and tribal public health departments to promote brain health, address dementia, and support people living with dementia and their caregivers. Extending this law through the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Reauthorization Act will allow this infrastructure to continue advancing public health action on Alzheimer's and dementia care.

The Alzheimer's Association and AIM deeply appreciate your continued leadership on behalf of all Americans living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. We look forward to working with you to advance this important bipartisan bill. If you have 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