



The Honorable Mike Thompson  
United States House of Representatives  
268 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Doris Matsui  
United States House of Representatives  
2311 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Schweikert  
United States House of Representatives  
460 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 4, 2024

Dear Representatives Thompson, Matsui, and Schweikert:

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 are pleased to support the Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies (CONNECT for Health Act of 2023 Act (H.R. 4189), which would make permanent and expand access to telehealth coverage under the Medicare program.

An estimated 6.9 million Americans age 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's dementia in 2024. The total cost of caring for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias in the United States is projected to reach \$360 billion in 2024. In addition, family and friends provided nearly \$350 billion in unpaid caregiving in 2023. Medicare and Medicaid are expected to cover \$231 billion, or 64 percent, of the total health care and long-term care payments for people with Alzheimer's or other dementias. Out-of-pocket spending is expected to be \$91 billion, or 25 percent of total payments. Total payments for health care, long-term care, and hospice care for people living with dementia are projected to increase to nearly \$1 trillion in 2050. These mounting costs threaten to bankrupt families, businesses, and our health care system. Unfortunately, our work is only growing more urgent.

The CONNECT for Health Act of 2023 would expand the coverage of telehealth services through Medicare by making permanent COVID-19 telehealth flexibilities set to expire in 2024, making it easier for patients to continue connecting with their doctors. Additionally, it would permanently remove all geographic restrictions on telehealth services and expand originating sites to include the home and other sites, and allow health centers and rural health clinics to provide telehealth services, making more health care professionals eligible to offer telehealth services. Thirty-two percent of individuals using home health services have Alzheimer's or other dementia. The ability to receive care in the home decreases visits to unfamiliar places that may cause agitation in people with dementia and can ease some burden on caregivers. This increased flexibility can reduce interruptions in access to quality care for this vulnerable population.

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](mailto: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