



The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
United States Senate
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

May 15, 2024

Dear Senators Blackburn and Baldwin:

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 dementias, and to their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association and AIM strongly support the bipartisan Facilitating Innovative Nuclear Diagnostics (FIND) Act of 2023 (S.1544/H.R. 1199) which would direct the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish separate payment requirements for diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals under the Medicare prospective payment system for hospital outpatient department services.

Nearly 7 million Americans aged 65 and older lived with Alzheimer's dementia in 2024. Total payments for all individuals with Alzheimer's or other dementias are estimated at \$360 billion (not including unpaid caregiving) in 2024. 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, 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.

Alzheimer's is one of the most significant health issues facing Medicare beneficiaries and their families. As such, an early and accurate diagnosis of the disease is vital, as it has a positive impact on health outcomes, access to treatments, eligibility for clinical trials, and access to much-needed support and services. An essential tool required for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease is brain amyloid positron emission tomography (PET) imaging. Increased access to diagnostic PET scans for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease allows patients to receive treatment while they are still in the early stages of the disease and eligible for innovative disease-modifying treatments.

Expanding access to diagnostic tools such as these are essential in the new era of Alzheimer's detection, diagnosis, and treatment. However, the current Medicare payment methodology restricts access to these innovations by reimbursing diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals through a packaged payment system, creating a significant barrier for Medicare patients who need newer, more precise diagnostic nuclear imaging drugs. The FIND Act of 2023 addresses this issue by directing HHS to pay separately for all diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals with a cost threshold per day of \$500 or more. In turn, this will help ensure that Medicare beneficiaries have access to advanced diagnostic imaging studies and that hospitals are appropriately reimbursed for the cost of such tests.

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 continuing to work with you to advance this bill. If you have questions about this or any other legislation, please contact Jennifer Pollack, Director of Access Policy, at jpollack@alz-aim.org or at 202.638.7032.

Sincerely,

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

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