



The Honorable Vern Buchanan
U.S. House of Representatives
2110 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nanette Barragán
U.S. House of Representatives
2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 26, 2024

Dear Representatives Buchanan and Barragán:

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 support the bipartisan Alzheimer's Law Enforcement Education Act (H.R. 9119), which would direct the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services of the Department of Justice to establish a training course relating to Alzheimer's disease and similar forms of dementia.

Nearly 7 million Americans aged 65 and older lived with Alzheimer's dementia in 2024. Alzheimer's disease causes millions of people in the United States to lose their ability to recognize familiar places and faces or even remember their names or addresses, and they can become disoriented and lost. It's common for a person living with dementia to wander or become confused about their location, and it can happen at any stage of the disease. Six in ten (roughly 66%) people living with dementia will wander at least once; many do so repeatedly. Although common, wandering can be dangerous — even life-threatening — and the stress of this risk weighs heavily on caregivers and family. The statistical realities of wandering increase the risk of running into law enforcement and having an interaction that can escalate without proper training.

The bipartisan Alzheimer's Law Enforcement Education Act (H.R. 9119) would address these issues by requiring law enforcement officials to complete an online training course, ensuring that they are well-equipped with the resources and information needed to properly de-escalate crisis situations when engaging with a person living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. The bill would require law enforcement to receive



instructions on how to properly recognize behavioral symptoms and characteristics, use effective communication, utilize alternatives to physical restraints, and identify signs of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of persons with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias.

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,

Rachel Conant
Executive Director, Alzheimer's Impact Movement
Senior Vice President, Public Policy, Alzheimer's Association