



The Honorable Jason Smith
United States House of Representatives
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mark Alford
United States House of Representatives
328 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 7, 2026

Dear Representatives Smith and Alford:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association and the Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM), including our nationwide networks of advocates, thank you for your leadership on issues and legislation important to Americans living with Alzheimer's and other dementias, and to their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association and AIM are pleased to support the Enhanced Alerts for Missing Loved Ones with Disabilities Act (H.R. 9118).

Over 7 million Americans are currently living with Alzheimer's disease, and by 2050, this number is expected to rise to nearly 13 million. As the disease progresses, individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia often experience profound disorientation and are at significant risk of wandering from their homes or care facilities. At least 60 percent of individuals with Alzheimer's disease will wander at some point during their lifetime. When not found quickly, wandering can lead to serious injury or death, while causing considerable emotional strain on families and caregivers.

Timely, accurate alerts and well-trained first responders are essential to the safe recovery of missing individuals with dementia. The Ashanti Alert network was designed to serve this purpose, but its current eligibility criteria use outdated language that may not adequately capture those living with Alzheimer's disease or dementia, potentially delaying the response this population urgently needs.

The Enhanced Alerts for Missing Loved Ones with Disabilities Act addresses this gap directly, ensuring that the full force of our national alert infrastructure can be activated on behalf of this vulnerable population, and strengthening law enforcement training to equip first responders at every level with the tools and knowledge needed to respond effectively to missing individuals living with dementia and related conditions.

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 Agnes Germiller, Associate Director of Congressional Affairs, at aggermiller@alz-aim.org or at 202.638.8662.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Rachel M. Conant". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

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