



The Honorable Suhas Subramanyam
United States House of Representatives
1009 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
United States House of Representatives
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 19, 2026

Dear Representatives Subramanyam and Bilirakis:

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 their caregivers. We write to express our support for the bipartisan Harmonizing Environmental Analyses and Launching Therapeutic Hubs to Yield Bolstered Research And Innovation in Neurological Science (HEALTHY BRAINS) Act of 2026, H.R. 7779, which directs the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to establish Collaborative Centers for Neurodegenerative Disease Environmental Research.

Over 7 million Americans aged 65 and older lived with Alzheimer's dementia in 2025. Total payments for all individuals with Alzheimer's or other dementias are estimated at \$384 billion (not including unpaid caregiving) in 2025. Medicare and Medicaid are expected to cover \$246 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 trillion by 2050. These mounting costs threaten to bankrupt families, businesses, and our health care system. Unfortunately, our work is only growing more urgent.

According to research reported at the 2024 Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC), environmental factors like wildfire smoke, motor vehicle emissions, and industrial activities all contribute to a type of air pollution known as fine particulate matter (PM2.5). This pollution consists of microscopic solid and liquid droplets in the air, with particles 30 times smaller than human hair. Research indicates that exposure to PM2.5 from wildfire smoke significantly increases the risk of dementia, even at lower levels of exposure, compared to PM2.5 from other sources. Although non-wildfire PM2.5 also elevates dementia risk, the effect is less pronounced than that of wildfire smoke. These findings highlight the urgent need for legislation such as the HEALTHY BRAINS Act, which would drive continued research into how environmental exposures contribute to neurodegenerative disease.

The Alzheimer's Association and AIM sincerely 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, at aggermiller@alz-aim.org or at 202.638.8662.

Sincerely,

Rachel M. Conant

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