

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 2206 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable David Schweikert United States House of Representatives 166 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Troy Balderson United States House of Representatives 2429 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

December 8, 2025

Dear Representatives Thompson, Schweikert, Matsui and Balderson:

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 2025 (H.R. 4206), which would make permanent and expand access to telehealth coverage under the Medicare program.

Over 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 \$384 billion (not including unpaid caregiving) in 2024. 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 becoming more urgent.

The CONNECT for Health Act would expand the coverage of telehealth services through Medicare by making permanent COVID-19 telehealth flexibilities, 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-six 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 Agnes Germiller, Associate Director of Congressional Affairs, at aggermiller@alz-aim.org or at 202.638.8668.

Sincerely.

Rockel M. Conout

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