



The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Chairman
Senate HELP Committee
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member
Senate HELP Committee
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rick Scott
Chairman
Senate Special Committee on Aging
G16 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
Ranking Member
Senate Special Committee on Aging
G16 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

June 20, 2025

Dear Chairman Cassidy, Ranking Member Sanders, Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Gillibrand:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association and the Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM), and our nationwide network of advocates, thank you for your bipartisan commitment to the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA) and for your continued leadership on issues critical to Americans living with Alzheimer's and other dementias and to their caregivers. We are proud to support the Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization Act of 2025 and are pleased to highlight several provisions in the legislation that are vital to individuals living with dementia, their families, and the caregivers who support them.

We are grateful for the continued inclusion of language ensuring individuals with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease are explicitly eligible for services through key OAA programs, including the National Family Caregiver Support Program and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. Codifying this eligibility, as established by the Younger-Onset Alzheimer's Disease Act, is essential to addressing the distinct and often overlooked challenges younger individuals with Alzheimer's face. These individuals may still be raising young children, in the workforce, or struggling to secure an accurate diagnosis - facing stigma and delays that compound the disease's toll.

Over 7 million Americans age 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's dementia. The vast majority are over 65 years old; however, approximately 200,000 Americans are under the age of 65 living with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease. These individuals fall outside the typical scope of aging services, leaving them without access to the age-targeted supports they critically need. The services authorized under the OAA are uniquely positioned to close that gap by providing resources to individuals regardless of age, based on cognitive need.

We are also deeply grateful for the reauthorization and extension of the RAISE Family Caregivers Act. We have been strong advocates for the RAISE Family Caregivers Act since it was introduced in Congress. As the caregiving crisis intensifies, especially in the Alzheimer's community, this extension will ensure the Department of Health and Human Services can fully implement a national strategy to better support unpaid caregivers. In 2024 alone, more than 12 million Americans provided unpaid care for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias, contributing an estimated

19 billion hours of care valued at \$413 billion. These caregivers experience significantly higher levels of emotional stress, physical strain, and financial burden compared to caregivers of individuals without dementia.

We also commend the bill's expanded efforts to address social isolation, a pressing issue for the aging population and especially for individuals with dementia. Social isolation exacerbates cognitive decline, mental health issues, and physical health risks. The Alzheimer's Association's Dementia Care Practice Recommendations emphasize the benefits of support groups in reducing isolation and improving outcomes, including quality of life and communication with family members. The establishment of an Advisory Council on Social Isolation and Loneliness is an important step toward better understanding and responding to this growing public health issue.

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 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 script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

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