



*The Honorable Brian Schatz
United States Senate
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510*

*The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510*

*The Honorable Ben Ray Luján
United States Senate
498 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510*

*The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senate
170 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510*

August 5, 2026

Dear Senators Schatz, Murkowski, Luján and Capito:

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 Expanding Capacity for Health Outcomes (ECHO) Act of 2026, which reauthorizes the Project ECHO grant program to strengthen the health care workforce through technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building.

Over 7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, and by 2050, this number is expected to rise to nearly 13 million. Alzheimer's is one of the costliest conditions in the United States. In 2025, total payments for all individuals with Alzheimer's or other dementia are estimated at \$384 billion (not including unpaid caregiving). By 2050, these costs are projected to rise to nearly \$1 trillion. Only half of those living with Alzheimer's disease are diagnosed and of those, only half are told of their diagnosis.

Primary care providers are on the front lines of Alzheimer's detection, diagnosis, and care. As demand for dementia specialists continues to outpace supply, primary care clinicians must be equipped with the knowledge and tools needed to provide timely, high-quality dementia care. Alzheimer's detection, diagnosis, and care are at a pivotal turning point. We now have better tools for early detection and even treatments that can slow progression, but too many people are still not diagnosed in time. Expanding access to education and best practices is essential to improving earlier diagnosis, care planning, treatment, and support for individuals and their caregivers.

The Project ECHO model has demonstrated success in improving provider knowledge, confidence, and access to specialty expertise, particularly in rural and underserved communities. As Alzheimer's diagnosis and treatment continue to evolve, education programs must be able to rapidly incorporate advances into clinical practice. The bipartisan ECHO Act of 2026 will ensure these successful collaborative learning models continue to strengthen the health care workforce, expand access to high-quality care, and improve outcomes for people living with Alzheimer's disease and other chronic 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*