



THE BRAINS BEHIND SAVING YOURS:™

The Honorable Joni Ernst  
United States Senate  
111 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
United States Senate  
261 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kelly Ayotte  
United States Senate  
144 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senate  
317 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

November 28, 2016

Dear Senator Ernst, Senator Bennet, Senator Ayotte and Senator Warren,

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, thank you for your leadership on issues important to Americans with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, as well as their families and caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association is proud to support S. 2759, the *Credit for Caring Act of 2016*, and its goals of providing assistance to all family caregivers.

The Alzheimer's Association is the world's leading voluntary health organization on Alzheimer's care, support and research. As you know, there are more than 5 million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease, which is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and the only cause of death in the top 10 without a way to prevent, cure or even slow its progression. Alzheimer's disease is the most costly disease in the United States and is set to increase like no other. In 2016, the cost of caring for those with Alzheimer's disease will reach \$236 billion and is expected to grow to \$1.1 trillion by 2050. Without significant breakthroughs in the development of treatments or a cure, it is projected that as many as 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's by 2050. In addition to its economic impact, Alzheimer's disease places a tremendous burden on caregivers. In 2015, more than 15 million family members and friends provided 18.1 billion hours of unpaid care to people with Alzheimer's and other dementias, at an economic value of over \$221 billion.

Nearly half of care contributors – those who are caregivers of someone with Alzheimer's and/or contribute financially to their care – cut back on their own expenses (including food, transportation and medical care) to pay for dementia-related care of a family member or friend. On average, care contributors spend more than \$5,000 per year of their own money (out-of-pocket) to provide care for someone with Alzheimer's or another dementia. Care contributors are 28 percent more likely than other adults to eat less or go hungry because they cannot afford to pay for food. And, among caregivers, 74 percent report they are "somewhat" to "very" concerned about maintaining their own health since becoming a caregiver. The *Credit for Caring Act* would provide working families with a credit for 30 percent of caregiving expenses up to a maximum of \$3,000 per year, which would help ease the financial burden many caregivers face.

The Alzheimer's Association appreciates your leadership on issues important to family caregivers. We look forward to continuing to work with you to improve care and support for all Americans affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Conant, Director of Federal Affairs, at [rconant@alz.org](mailto:rconant@alz.org) or at 202.638.7121.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Egge', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Egge  
Executive Vice President, Government Affairs  
Alzheimer's Association