Heather Menne  
Social Science Analyst  
Administration for Community Living  
US Department of Health and Human Services  
330 C Street SW  
Washington, DC 20201  
May 1, 2017

Re: Administration for Community Living, Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Public Comment Request; Proposed Extension With Modifications of a Currently Approved Collection; National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants

Dear Ms. Menne,

On behalf of the Alzheimer’s Association, I write to express concern about the Administration for Community Living’s (ACL) proposed modifications to the National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants.

The Alzheimer’s Association is the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer’s disease care, support, and research. Today, there are more than 5 million Americans living with Alzheimer’s disease, and more than 15 million Americans providing unpaid care for them.\(^1\) Age is the greatest risk factor for developing a form of dementia, with the vast majority of people with Alzheimer’s being age 65 and older.\(^2\) Because the needs of persons with dementia are complex, older adults must have access to the full array of support services they need. For this reason, we oppose ACL’s proposal to remove lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) older adults from the National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants. This survey provides critical data on whether federally-funded aging programs like Meals on Wheels, family caregiver support, adult day programs, and senior centers reach all older adults, including LGBT older adults. Without this data, ACL and the administration cannot ensure that LGBT older adults receive the services they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact Laura Thornhill, Manager of Regulatory Affairs, at 202-638-7042 or lthornhill@alz.org if you have questions or if we can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Robert Egge  
Executive Vice President, Government Affairs

\(^2\) Ibid.