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Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer's Impact Movement Statement on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 8, 2017 – The Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM) are deeply concerned by the removal of the medical expense deduction in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act released in the House of Representatives. Families rely on this tax deduction to offset the high costs associated with the long-term care required by Alzheimer's and other dementias.

More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease and another 15 million are providing care. Alzheimer's is the most expensive disease in the country, costing an estimated \$259 billion in direct costs in 2017, including \$56 billion in out-of-pocket expenses. Average out-of-pocket costs for Alzheimer's and other dementias are nearly five times higher than average per-person payments for seniors without these conditions.

A progressive and fatal brain disease, Alzheimer's requires a wide range of evolving care and services as the disease advances. Studies show that people age 65 and older survive an average of 4 to 8 years after a diagnosis of Alzheimer's, and some live as long as 20 years with Alzheimer's.

As negotiations continue in the House, and the Senate considers its tax reform plan, we strongly encourage lawmakers to consider the impact this proposal would have on millions of Americans affected by Alzheimer's. The Alzheimer's Association and AIM will continue to work with Congress to protect the needs and address the huge challenges of these vulnerable constituents.

Alzheimer's Association[®]

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's. For more information, visit alz.org.

Alzheimer's Impact Movement

The Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM) is the advocacy arm of the Alzheimer's Association. AIM works to develop and advance policies to overcome Alzheimer's disease through increased investment in research, enhanced care and improved support. For more information, visit alzimpact.org

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