NEWS RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:
Olga Monacell, Communications Manager, Rochester & Finger Lakes Region
585.585.760.5417 (o) | 315.560.5217 (c) | ozmonacell@alz.org

June 18, 2018

FOUR CONSTITUENTS TO URGE SENS. GILLIBRAND, SCHUMER AND REP. REED TO SUPPORT INCREASE IN FEDERAL ALZHEIMER’S FUNDING

Alzheimer’s Advocates from Rochester and Finger Lakes Region to Join More Than 1,000 Citizen Ambassadors in Washington, D.C.

ROCHESTER, N.Y.—Four Alzheimer’s advocates—Jane Adams of Irondequoit, Francisco Corbalan, M.D., of Elmira, Bruce Holroyd of Greece and Candace Ryan of Canandaigua—will join more than 1,000 fellow citizen ambassadors from across the country on Capitol Hill on June 19 to advance legislative policies that will improve the lives of 5.7 million Americans who live with Alzheimer’s.

Citizen ambassadors from our region convened in Washington, D.C., on June 17 for the Alzheimer’s disease advocacy event, the Alzheimer’s Association AIM Advocacy Forum. The four advocates will urge their members of Congress to pass two bipartisan bills that are critical to the fight against Alzheimer’s and support a $425 million increase for research funding at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for fiscal year 2019.

Dr. Corbalan will meet with Rep. Tom Reed (R-N.Y.), Candace Ryan will meet with Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), and Bruce Holroyd will meet with Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.). Adams, who is the Alzheimer’s ambassador to the late Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.), will also attend our delegation’s meetings on the Hill.

“As a geriatrics specialist, I see patients living with dementia on a daily basis and witness the enormous emotional and financial burden the disease has on them and their families. There has already been progress in the area of early diagnosis, but we cannot yet put it to good use until we are able to find ways to prevent and treat the disease,” Dr. Corbalan said. “I will thank Rep. Reed for his longstanding support of Alzheimer’s initiatives and ask him to vote for additional Alzheimer’s and dementia research funding at the NIH.”

The two bipartisan bills for which Adams, Corbalan, Holroyd and Ryan will be advocating include: the Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s Act (S. 2076/H.R. 4256) and the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA) (S. 693/ H.R.R 1676). If passed, the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s Act would apply a public health approach to Alzheimer’s disease by establishing a modern infrastructure for the prevention, treatment, and care of Alzheimer’s and other dementias. PCHETA, would ensure America has an adequate, well-trained palliative care and hospice workforce through worker training, education and awareness and enhanced research.

More than 400,000 individuals live with this this progressive, fatal brain disease in our state and another 1 million New Yorkers provide unpaid care to their loved ones.
Alzheimer’s is the only leading cause of death in America without a way to prevent, cure, or even slow its progression. Consequently, in 2018 alone, Alzheimer’s and other dementias are expected to cost the United States $277 billion, with $186 billion being borne by Medicare and Medicaid, meaning 1 in every 5 Medicare dollars will be spent on a person with Alzheimer’s.

To learn more about the Alzheimer’s Association AIM Advocacy Forum, please visit alz.org/forum.

Together with these advocates from New York State and across the country, the Alzheimer’s Association is also commemorating the annual Alzheimer’s & Brain Awareness Month. Throughout the month of June, the Association highlights resources that can help individuals in the wake of a diagnosis, including offering 10 Steps to Take Following an Alzheimer’s Diagnosis, as well as 10 Warning Signs to help people understand early symptoms of Alzheimer’s or behaviors that merit discussion.

**About Alzheimer’s & Brain Awareness Month**
June is Alzheimer’s & Brain Awareness Month, a time dedicated to increasing public awareness of Alzheimer’s disease, available resources and how you can get involved to support the cause. Visit alz.org to learn more about Alzheimer’s, its warning signs, the importance of early detection and diagnosis as well as information on care and support. Digital assets including a b-roll and patient stories are available here: https://digitalmedia.vnr1.com/2018/05/23/alzheimer_earlydiagnosis/.

**About the Alzheimer’s Association Rochester and Finger Lakes Region**
The Alzheimer’s Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer’s care, support and research. It is the largest nonprofit funder of Alzheimer’s research. The Association’s 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. Its vision is a world without Alzheimer’s. The Alzheimer's Association Rochester & Finger Lakes Region serves a nine-county region, including Chemung, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates counties. Visit alz.org/rochesterny or call 1-800-272-3900.

###