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October 1, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Senate HELP Committee

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Ranking Member  
Senate HELP Committee

The Honorable Bernard Sanders  
Chairman  
Primary Health and Aging Subcommittee  
Senate HELP Committee

The Honorable Richard Burr  
Ranking Member  
Primary Health and Aging Subcommittee  
Senate HELP Committee

Dear Chairman Harkin, Ranking Member Alexander, Chairman Sanders and Ranking Member Burr,

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association<sup>®</sup>, 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 proudly supports the *Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2013 (S. 1562)* which provides essential support for older Americans in need. This important legislation will provide funding and assistance for many critical programs and services vital to the Alzheimer's disease and dementia community. We look forward to working with you in a bipartisan fashion to reauthorize these essential programs during the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. As you know, more than 5 million Americans are currently living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. In addition, more than 15 million friends and family of those with Alzheimer's disease are also acting as uncompensated caregivers. In 2012, these individuals provided 17.5 billion hours of care, valued at more than \$216 billion. Alzheimer's disease was recently identified by the *New England Journal of Medicine* as the costliest disease in the United States, as care costs are expected to exceed \$200 billion in 2013. As the baby boom generation continues to age, one-in-nine above age 65 will develop Alzheimer's disease or another dementia. By 2050, the number of people with Alzheimer's disease in the United States is expected to balloon to nearly 14 million, representing a cost to the nation of nearly \$1.2 trillion.

The Older Americans Act provides for federal funding and the necessary infrastructure to deliver vital support programs and social services to our nation's seniors, including those with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. These critical programs are used by millions of Americans and provide for such services as nutrition programs, senior centers and caregiver supports. Furthermore, nearly one-third of older individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias that have Medicare are also eligible for Medicaid, underscoring the need within the Alzheimer's community for such programs as the National Family Caregiver Support Program, which help support low-income seniors with dementia.

The Alzheimer's Association appreciates your leadership on this important issue, and we look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues to improve care and support for individuals and families

affected by Alzheimer's disease. 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 be 'RE', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert Egge  
Vice President, Public Policy  
Alzheimer's Association