

April 3, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of UsAgainstAlzheimer's, I'm writing to thank you for your leadership in passing bipartisan legislation to deliver solutions to our nation's COVID-19 crisis. We were heartened to see expanded protections for some of our nation's 44 million family caregivers – including 16 million family caregivers providing Alzheimer's-related care – in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act. I write to urge you to do more to protect family caregivers in any future COVID-19 legislation.

The crisis triggered by COVID-19 underscores the urgent need for a comprehensive paid family leave policy to support vulnerable families. A new survey by UsAgainstAlzheimer's of the Alzheimer's community found that nearly three-quarters of dementia caregivers think Congress should make paid family and medical leave a priority, and a flash poll of how our community has been impacted by COVID-19 finds that 70% are concerned about their finances and their family's finances during this crisis.

To support caregivers of loved ones living with chronic conditions, we urge you to expand paid leave benefits in any future COVID-19 response legislation to cover the following populations:

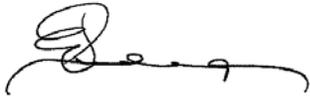
- People who are caring for loved ones with a serious medical condition like Alzheimer's or dementia who have not been quarantined or show symptoms of COVID-19.
- People whose loved one's caregiving arrangements and adult day care centers are no longer in operation due to caregiver illness (including home health aides) or closures due to COVID-19 and related quarantine recommendations or requirements.
- People who work at a company with more than 500 employees; those large companies are exempted from the paid family leave requirement.

More than 5.8 million Americans live with Alzheimer's or a related dementia, and their family caregivers provide an estimated 18.4 billion hours of unpaid care – valued at \$244 billion. Comprehensive paid family and medical leave is critically important for these families. Leaving this community behind in Congress' response to the COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacts the financial and emotional well-being of millions of American families.

Further, given the disproportionate impact of Alzheimer's and related dementias on women and communities of color, we encourage Congress to direct the Department of Health and Human Services to collect comprehensive, demographic data on race/ethnicity and language of patients being tested, the rate of positive test results, and outcomes for those with COVID-19. This data will be invaluable to ensuring that our nation's health response to the current crisis is equitable and reaching all communities.

We stand ready to support you and would be happy to serve as a resource should you have any questions or require additional information. Thank you again for your work to address the COVID-19 public health crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Vradenburg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

George Vradenburg
UsAgainstAlzheimer's
Co-Founder and Chairman