

UsAgainstAlzheimer's

August 15, 2017

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
United States Congress
214 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
United States Congress
2206 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Michelle-Lujan Grisham & Ros-Lehtinen -

On behalf **UsAgainstAlzheimer's** and our networks, we are writing to endorse the **National Care Corps Act** and the **National Care Corps Demonstration Act** and to thank you for your continued leadership on behalf of the millions of families touched by Alzheimer's and dementia.

UsAgainstAlzheimer's is an innovative non-profit organization demanding – and delivering – a solution to Alzheimer's. Driven by the suffering of millions of families, we press for greater urgency from government, industry and the scientific community in the quest for an Alzheimer's cure – accomplishing this through effective leadership, collaborative advocacy, and strategic investments.

As you both know very well, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias exact a significant toll on the family caregivers of those impacted by the disease. There is ample evidence that Alzheimer's disease greatly impacts the physical, mental, emotional and economic health and well-being of family caregivers. In 2013, a report by the RAND Corporation that was funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) found that providing institutional and home-based care is the single greatest economic cost associated with dementia. Further, according to research by MIT's Dr. Paul Osterman, by 2030 there will be a national shortage of 151,000 paid direct care workers and 3.8 million unpaid family caregivers in the U.S.

The proposed legislation will place volunteers in communities to work with older Americans living with conditions like Alzheimer's who need extra support to live independently. In exchange, volunteers will receive health insurance and other benefits, such as tuition assistance. Given the growing impact of Alzheimer's on communities, and particularly communities of color, it is essential to increase caregiving capacity at the local-level through the kinds of community-based grants and trainings proposed under this legislation.

UsAgainstAlzheimer's and the undersigned networks applaud you for leading this bipartisan effort and we look forward to doing everything we can to support your leadership to enact this common-sense legislation into law. This is a critical issue for millions of Americans living and struggling in the shadows with diseases like Alzheimer's.

Sincerely,

UsAgainstAlzheimer's

AfricanAmericansAgainstAlzheimer's Network

ClergyAgainstAlzheimer's Network

FaithUnitedAgainstAlzheimer's Coalition

LatinosAgainstAlzheimer's Network

WomenAgainstAlzheimer's Network