



Leadership Council  
of Aging Organizations

*James Firman, Chair*

March 23, 2018

The Honorable Susan Collins  
U.S. Senate  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto  
U.S. Senate  
204 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
U.S. Senate  
172 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tim Kaine  
U.S. Senate  
231 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Collins, Cortez Masto, Capito, and Kaine:

The undersigned members of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) write to express our appreciation for your leadership in addressing the many challenges we face in the fight against Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. We are very pleased to support your legislation, the "Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act" (BOLD Act - S.2076).

The LCAO is a coalition of non-profit organizations concerned with the well-being of America's older population and committed to representing their interests in the policy-making arena.

The bill applies a public health approach and creates an infrastructure for the many aspects of Alzheimer's and related dementias, including prevention, early detection and diagnosis, and treatment. This approach is both patient- and caregiver-centered and cost effective.

We support the key provisions of the BOLD Act, including the establishment of:

- **Centers of Excellence in Public Health Practice** to promote effective supportive services, training, and caregiver education;
- **Core Capacity and Enhanced Activity Cooperative Agreements** to provide resources to State Health Departments; and
- **Data Analysis and Reporting Cooperative Agreements** with CDC to ensure that data on Alzheimer's and other dementias, cognitive decline, caregiving, and health disparities are analyzed and put to beneficial use as soon as possible.

With more than five million Americans already living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, now is the time to take advantage of all that we know about caring for people with Alzheimer's and related dementias and supporting their caregivers by concentrating efforts and resources on a much-needed infrastructure.

The LCAO looks forward to working with you to secure passage of the BOLD Act as soon as possible. Please feel free to contact Patricia D'Antonio with The Gerontological Society of America at [pdantonio@geron.org](mailto:pdantonio@geron.org) if we may be of assistance on this important effort.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Aging Research  
Alliance for Retired Americans  
Alzheimer's Foundation of America  
AMDA - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine  
American Association of Service Coordinators  
American Geriatrics Society (AGS)  
American Society on Aging (ASA)  
Association for Gerontology and Human Development in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (AGHDHBCU)  
B'nai B'rith International  
Center for Medicare Advocacy  
Easterseals  
The Gerontological Society of America (GSA)  
International Association for Indigenous Aging (IA<sup>2</sup>)  
The Jewish Federations of North America  
Justice in Aging  
LeadingAge  
Medicare Rights Center  
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA)  
National Adult Day Services Association (NADSA)  
National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA)  
National Alliance for Caregiving  
National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC)  
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)  
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)  
National Center for Creative Aging  
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare  
National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care  
National Council on Aging (NCOA)  
National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA)  
National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA)  
Volunteers of America  
Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER)