

Latinos Against Alzheimer's Coalition

Executive Director

Jason Resendez

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Our Coalition Members Include

Dialogue on Diversity
Fuerza Contra Alzheimer's
Labor Council of Latin American Advancement
MAAC Project
MANA - A National Latina Organization
Multicultural Coalition on Aging
National Latino Behavioral Health Association
(NLBHA)
The Hispanic Federation
The Latino Alzheimer's & Memories Disorders
Alliance (LAMDA)
The Latino Coalition
The League of United Latin American Citizens
(LULAC)
The National Association of Hispanic Nurses
(NAHN)
The National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA)
The National Latino Medical Student Association
(LMSA)
The USC Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging

Convened by the UsAgainstAlzheimer's Network

August 12, 2016

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar and Senator Collins:

On behalf of the **LatinosAgainstAlzheimer's Coalition**, the nation's first-ever national coalition of Latino-serving organizations dedicated addressing the growing impact of dementia on Latino families, we are writing to endorse the **Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act (S.3113)**. We thank you for your leadership in addressing this growing hardship for Latino families and the nation.

As you know, ample evidence makes clear the impact a diagnosis of Alzheimer's has on the physical, mental and emotional health of family caregivers, including their financial health and well-being. In 2013, a report by the RAND Corporation, funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), found that care related cost is the single greatest economic cost associated with dementia. Further, dementia care places a heavy toll on Latino families in particular, as they are more likely to rely on informal care support than other populations.

According to the National Alliance for Caregiving, there are at least 8 million Latino family caregivers across the country and approximately 1.8 million are providing care for a loved one – oftentimes a parent - with Alzheimer's or dementia. Research finds that Hispanic family caregivers tend to be in more intensive caregiving situations with 63 percent in high burden situations compared to 51 percent of non-Hispanic caregivers. These caregivers need support now.

The Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act would authorize grants to public and nonprofit organizations to provide enhanced training and support that improves caregiver health and prevents long-term admissions for patient care. The Act is an important step in the right direction for increasing community and family based support for family caregivers through tailored programming on the local level. The

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Act's focus on tailored, community based support is critical to addressing this growing public health crisis in the Latino community.

The LatinosAgainstAlzheimer's Coalition – convened by UsAgainstAlzheimer's - applauds your leadership on this bipartisan effort. Please contact Jason Resendez, executive director of the LatinosAgainstAlzheimer's Coalition, at jresendez@usagainstalzhimers.org with any questions or concerns. This is an important – and growing - concern for millions of Latino family caregivers living and struggling in the shadows.

Thank you,

The LatinosAgainstAlzheimer's Network