

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Health Member Paul Tonko

Hearing on “Legislative Proposals to Support Patients and Caregivers”

February 14, 2024

Thank you, Ranking Member Eshoo, and thank you Chair Guthrie, for your focus on Alzheimer’s in today’s hearing. And thank you to all of our witnesses for your expertise and insights. Special thanks to Dr. Joanne Pike, CEO of the Alzheimer’s Association and CEO of the Alzheimer’s Impact Movement for joining us today.

I am honored to be in the fight to end Alzheimer’s. I know so many in our community and around the nation who are suffering from this disease and whose families carry a heavy burden.

Alzheimer’s is the most common form of dementia and is unfortunately growing – fast. Unfortunately, 1 in 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer’s or another dementia. In 2023, Alzheimer’s and other dementias cost the nation an estimated \$345 billion.

Ever since my first days in Congress, I’ve pushed for strong action to support those living with Alzheimer’s by driving medical research, federal coordination, early detection and public health infrastructure and support for caregivers.

I invite all my colleagues here to support NAPA Reauthorization, BOLD Reauthorization and the Alzheimer’s Accountability and Investment Act to continue our fight against Alzheimer’s and to support the millions of Americans living with this devastating disease.

Together let’s provide much needed hope.