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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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April 16, 2024

Dr. Joanne Pike, Dr.P.H.
President and CEO
Alzheimer's Association
225 North Michigan Avenue, Floor 17
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Dr. Pike:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Health on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, to testify at the hearing entitled "Legislative Proposals to Support Patients and Caregivers."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Wednesday, May 1, 2024. Your responses should be mailed to Emma Schultheis, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to Emma.Schultheis@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



Brett Guthrie
Chair
Subcommittee on Health

cc: Anna Eshoo, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health

Attachment

Attachment — Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis

1. Can you provide specific examples of how the National Alzheimer's Project has helped advance Alzheimer's research and care and why this National Plan model has worked well to coordinate at the federal level?
2. To what extent does untreated hearing loss contribute to the development or progression of Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias?
3. Does the Alzheimer's Association have any data it could share with this committee on the impact of improved access to audiology services on cognitive function and dementia risk in older adults?
4. In your experience, what are some of the challenges faced by individuals with Alzheimer's Disease or related dementias who also have untreated hearing loss?
 - a. How do these challenges impact their quality of life and ability to communicate?
5. From a policy perspective, what measures do you believe could be implemented to improve access to audiology services for older adults, particularly those at risk of or living with Alzheimer's Disease or related dementias?
6. Are there any ongoing initiatives or programs led by the Alzheimer's Association aimed at addressing the intersection of hearing loss and dementia?
 - a. If so, could you provide some insight into these initiatives and their potential impact?
7. In your opinion, how important is it for healthcare providers, caregivers, and policymakers to recognize and address the link between hearing loss and Alzheimer's Disease or related dementias?
 - a. What steps can be taken to raise awareness about this issue and promote early intervention?
8. How can collaboration between organizations like the Alzheimer's Association and other stakeholders, such as government agencies, healthcare providers, and advocacy groups, help address the multifaceted challenges associated with hearing loss and dementia?

The Honorable Neal Dunn, M.D.

1. Genetic counselors play an essential role when there are genetic aspects to disease and conditions. They ensure patients and family members who would benefit from genetic testing gain access to appropriate testing and ensure physicians and their patients understand test results well. Genetic counselors also help navigate follow-up care and identify clinical trials that may be of benefit. Today, Medicare does not reimburse genetic counselor services. Should this policy change?