



March 1, 2016

The Honorable Charles Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA), a national nonprofit organization that unites more than 2,400 member organizations nationwide with the goal of providing optimal care and services to individuals confronting dementia, and to their caregivers and families, I wish to thank you for your introduction of S. 2614, Kevin and Avonte's Law of 2016, which reauthorizes the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, and promotes initiatives to reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of children with autism.

Among the behavioral challenges of persons living with dementia, becoming lost is a grave concern. Sixty percent of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are likely to wander away and become lost. Wanderers are vulnerable to dehydration, weather and traffic hazards, and individuals who prey on the defenseless. Up to 50 percent of people with Alzheimer's disease who become lost will be seriously injured or die if they are not found within 24 hours.

The Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Program provides vital resources in helping local communities and law enforcement officials quickly find persons with Alzheimer's disease who wander away from their homes, long-term care facilities or other places. The program protects the safety of millions of Americans affected by Alzheimer's disease and provides priceless peace-of-mind to their families. It, moreover, saves local law enforcement officials valuable time and resources, and allows them to focus on other security concerns.

To highlight the importance of this issue, AFA developed a white paper on wandering entitled, "Lost and...FOUND" which provides a review of available methods and technologies to aid law enforcement in locating missing adults with dementia, including information on the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Program. The report can be found at: http://www.alzfdn.org/documents/Lost&Found_forweb.pdf.

As the face of care for individuals and their families who are affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, AFA is thankful for your leadership. We look forward to working with you to get Kevin and Avonte's Law passed by the full Senate. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me or Eric Sokol, AFA vice president of public policy, at 202-643-9601.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. Fuschillo, Jr." in a cursive style.

Charles Fuschillo, Jr.
President & CEO