



# Improving HOPE for Alzheimer's Act

H.R. 1873, 116<sup>th</sup> Congress

**Sponsors:** Reps. Paul Tonko (D-NY), Jackie Walorski (R-IN), Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Brett Guthrie (R-KY), Maxine Waters (D-CA), Chris Smith (R-NJ)

*"Receiving an Alzheimer's diagnosis is one of the scariest and most disorienting moments a family can face. Having your health care provider take the time to walk you through your diagnosis and care planning options can make all the difference."*

❖ Paul Tonko

## Care plans make a difference

- In the U.S. alone, **5.8 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease**
  - By 2050, this number is **estimated to rise to 14 million**
- 83% of care for older adults with Alzheimer's comes from family, friends, other unpaid caregivers
- 16 million people in the U.S. provide unpaid care for people with Alzheimer's or another dementia
- **Creating a care plan** with doctors and caregivers after a dementia diagnosis **helps patients preserve quality of life and provides valuable support** for friends and family members

## Medicare care plan services are underused

- In 2016, the **HOPE for Alzheimer's Act**, led by **Reps. Paul Tonko and Chris Smith**, established a Medicare benefit for comprehensive care planning services following a dementia diagnosis
- As a result, **Medicare now covers care planning** for cognitive impairments including dementia
- This also **ensures clinicians have the time and resources** to provide this valuable service
- **HOWEVER:** in its 1st year, **< 1% of seniors living with Alzheimer's** used a care planning benefit

## Congress Can Do Better!

### Improving HOPE for Alzheimer's Act (H.R. 1873)

- **Makes it easier for patients** to find out about and receive post-diagnosis care services that are covered under Medicare, improving treatment outcomes
- **Increases education and outreach** to providers about Alzheimer's and dementia care planning services through Medicare, making it easier for providers to deliver this service
- Gives clinicians the **tools and the knowledge to better support** and counsel their patients and families living with dementia
- **ENDORSED BY:** Alzheimer's Association of America & Alzheimer's Impact Movement

*We can do more to ensure impacted families are able to take advantage of this important benefit and better prepare for the challenges that an Alzheimer's diagnosis brings. The result will be better treatment outcomes and greater peace of mind!*

Connect with Representative Tonko on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @RepPaulTonko