

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 8, 2005

Cosponsor the Alzheimer's Treatment and Caregiver Support Act

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to urge you to cosponsor **H.R. 3642, the Alzheimer's Treatment and Caregiver Support Act**. This bill would expand treatment and support services for Americans affected by Alzheimer's Disease.

An estimated 4.5 million Americans have Alzheimer's Disease, and this number could triple by the year 2050. Ten percent of Americans over 65 and almost half of Americans over 85 suffer from Alzheimer's Disease. More than 70% of Alzheimer's patients live at home under the care of family and friends. Caregivers face a variety of challenges, from assisting patients with bathing and dressing to managing their finances and making legal decisions. Nursing home care for Alzheimer's patients costs an average of \$42,000 per year and places additional challenges on family members who want to remain involved in the patient's life.

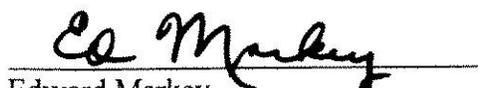
The **Alzheimer's Treatment and Caregiver Support Act** would provide grants to public and non-profit organizations to improve treatment services for Alzheimer's patients and expand training and support services for families and caregivers. Organizations receiving grants would be required to employ a comprehensive approach to Alzheimer's care that integrates patient treatment with training and support services for families and caregivers. Expanding access to training and support services would improve the ability of caregivers to provide effective, compassionate care and allow more people with Alzheimer's Disease to remain in their homes with supportive families and caregivers.

The **Alzheimer's Treatment and Caregiver Support Act** would provide essential treatment and support services to Alzheimer's patients and their families. If you have any questions or would like to cosponsor this bill, please contact Kathleen Sengstock of Congresswoman Waters' staff at 225-2201.

Sincerely,


Maxine Waters


Ileana Ros-Lehtinen


Edward Markey


Christopher Smith