

# The BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act

## Introduced by Senators Collins, Cortez Masto, Capito, and Kaine

**Alzheimer's Burden.** More than five million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, and without further action, that number is expected to triple to as many as 16 million by 2050. The United States spends more than \$259 billion per year, including \$175 billion in costs to Medicare and Medicaid.

**Public Health Breakthroughs.** Public health works on a population level to protect and improve the health and safety of an entire community. As a result of public health advancements, we have safe water to drink, vaccines to prevent deadly diseases, interventions to quit reduce smoking, and emergency preparedness tools to save lives. Public health saves lives, hundreds of thousands at a time.

**Alzheimer's is a public health issue.** Alzheimer's does not happen overnight. It is preceded by decades of changes in the brain and behavior, including cognitive decline. Growing evidence shows that lifestyle factors, like regular physical activity and attention to heart health, can reduce the risk of cognitive decline and may reduce the risk of Alzheimer's. There are steps we can take to promote prevention and improve treatment for those living with Alzheimer's, including the experiences of their caregivers. Among people with dementia, one in every four hospitalizations is preventable. *The Aging Committee held a hearing in March, "[The Arc of Alzheimer's: From Preventing Cognitive Decline in Americans to Assuring Quality Care for those Living with the Disease](#)," which highlighted that a public health approach to Alzheimer's is possible.*

**Bill Summary. The Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act, or BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act,** would apply a public health approach to Alzheimer's disease. Headed by the Centers of Disease and Prevention (CDC), it would create a modern infrastructure for the prevention, treatment, and care of Alzheimer's and related dementias. It would establish:

1. **Centers of Excellence in Public Health Practice** dedicated to promoting effective Alzheimer's disease and caregiving interventions as well as educating the public on Alzheimer's disease, cognitive decline, and brain health. The centers would implement the CDC's Healthy Aging Public Health Road Map, and would take key steps to support health and social services professionals as well as families and communities. Authorizes \$12 million for centers across the nation.
2. **Core Capacity and Enhanced Activity Cooperative Agreements** with the CDC would be awarded to State Health Departments to carry out key steps. Core capacity awards would help states build a foundation and enhanced activity awards would help those states that are carrying out public health Alzheimer's steps to amplify their initiatives through public-private partnerships. Authorizes \$20 million.
3. **Data Analysis and Reporting Cooperative Agreements** with CDC would ensure that data on Alzheimer's, cognitive decline, caregiving, and health disparities are analyzed and disseminated to the public in a timely manner. Authorizes \$5 million for awards and CDC data collection.

### Key Steps

- Support early detection and diagnosis.
- Reduce risk of avoidable hospitalizations.
- Reduce risk of cognitive decline.
- Enhance support to meet needs of caregivers.
- Reduce health disparities.
- Support care planning and management.