



U.S. SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

AGING ACTION REPORT

FROM RANKING MEMBER TIM SCOTT

DEAR FRIEND,

Tackling Alzheimer's disease is a major priority for me as Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Aging. 5.8 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease and the risks are even higher among African Americans and other minorities. During the first wave of COVID-19, we saw Alzheimer's and related dementia deaths increase by 18% nationwide. As our country recovers from COVID, we must support individuals and families facing Alzheimer's.

I am proud to say that South Carolina launched the nation's first Alzheimer's disease registry in 1988. We are also in the trenches with the sixth-highest death rate for Alzheimer's in our nation. Behind each number is a person. I am committed to bringing awareness to Alzheimer's, improving funding and resources for care providers, and finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease.

RANKING MEMBER TIM SCOTT



AGING HEARING DEBRIEF: TAKING AIM AT ALZHEIMER'S



On Thursday, May 20, Ranking Member Tim Scott and members of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging heard from a panel of witnesses about Alzheimer's disease and the challenges families and caregivers face when caring for loved ones with the disease. During the hearing, RM Scott heard about the risks associated with Alzheimer's, new medical developments, and how to best support people living with the disease. RM Scott emphasized his commitment to finding a cure in his closing statement.

The Committee was pleased to have Peg Lahmeyer, co-founder and Executive Director of The ARK of SC, as a witness. She shared both her experiences as a caregiver for her late mother who suffered from Alzheimer's and her work supporting families facing Alzheimer's disease at The ARK.

FUNDING FOR ALZHEIMER'S CARE CENTERS

Ranking Member Tim Scott joined Aging Committee members Senator Collins and Senator Kelly, as well as 23 other Senators, in sending a bipartisan letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Becerra asking him to target the remaining \$23 billion in COVID-19 Provider Relief Funds to those who have received relatively little funding, including Alzheimer's and memory care centers. These providers need additional support due to the extensive impact COVID-19 has had on older adults with Alzheimer's and other dementias.



SENIOR CARE ACT: ENSURING MEDICAID FOR WORKING SENIORS WITH DISABILITIES

RM Scott joined colleagues in introducing the bipartisan Supporting And Empowering the Nation to Improve Outcomes That Reaffirm Careers, Activities, and Recreation for the Elderly (SENIOR CARE) Act. The SENIOR CARE Act lifts the Ticket To Work Program's Medicaid age restriction to allow Americans with disabilities over the age of 65 to continue to work and remain eligible for Medicaid. "People with disabilities, especially those 65 and older, deserve every opportunity to continue maintaining Medicaid coverage and the ability to fulfill their American Dream," said Ranking Member Scott.

AGING COMMITTEE DESIGNATES MAY AS NATIONAL OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging Ranking Member Tim Scott and members of the Committee introduced a bipartisan resolution declaring the month of May "**Older Americans Month**". The resolution recognizes the strong foundation older Americans have built for our nation and acknowledges the important role they play in our society.

"Americans from every walk of life owe a debt of gratitude to our seniors for laying the foundation for a strong future," said Senator Scott. "Our nation recognizes their important legacies, hard work, and selfless sacrifice on behalf of future generations. It's an honor to serve as ranking member on the committee that is working to ensure seniors are taken care of."



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THE SWEET TEA

In 2021, more than 95,000 South Carolinians are living with Alzheimer's and over 199,000 loved ones are providing care for them. To assist individuals and families facing Alzheimer's, the Administration for Community Living funds the National Alzheimer's Call Center that is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Operated by the Alzheimer's Association, the Center provides information, expert advice, care consultation, and referrals at both national and local levels.

For help and more information, call the National Alzheimer's Call Center at **1.800.272.3900**.



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