

Happening on the Hill

As we kick off 2026, here are some of AIM's key highlights from the last half of the year:

- **May:** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [cleared](#) the first blood test to aid in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. The test detects amyloid plaques through a blood draw, making it less invasive than commonly used diagnostic tools.
- **June:** The bipartisan [Accelerating Access to Dementia & Alzheimer's Provider Training \(AADAPT\) Act \(H.R. 3747\)](#) was introduced in the [House](#). Building on the success of programs like Project ECHO, the bill aims to empower primary care providers to better diagnose and care for people living with Alzheimer's and other dementia by addressing knowledge gaps and workforce capacity challenges. The bill now has 57 bipartisan cosponsors, surpassing support in the 118th Congress.
- **July:** Data first shared at the [Alzheimer's Association International Conference \(AAIC\) 2025](#) showed that the [U.S. POINTER lifestyle intervention improved thinking and memory over two years, helping prevent normal age-related cognitive decline](#). U.S. POINTER is the first large-scale randomized controlled trial to demonstrate that an accessible, sustainable lifestyle intervention can protect cognitive function in diverse U.S. communities. Additional [data](#) presented at the Clinical Trials on Alzheimer's Disease (CTAD) Conference in December found potential benefits for blood pressure regulation and sleep apnea using the POINTER "healthy lifestyle recipe."
- **October:** The FDA [cleared](#) the Elecsys pTau181 plasma test developed by Roche. This is the first blood-based biomarker test for Alzheimer's disease approved for use in the primary care setting to rule out amyloid pathology.
- **November:** The bipartisan Alzheimer's Screening and Prevention (ASAP) Act ([H.R. 6130/S. 3267](#)) was introduced in both the House and Senate, which will create a pathway for Medicare coverage of FDA-approved and cleared biomarker screening tests to support earlier detection. The bill is already gaining strong bipartisan, bicameral momentum heading into 2026!
- **December:** On December 4, Joanne Pike, DrPH, Alzheimer's Association president and CEO and AIM CEO, joined Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and Punchbowl News to discuss progress in the fight against Alzheimer's and advancements in dementia research. [Learn more](#) and [watch the event](#).
- **FY26 Funding:** AIM is requesting \$113.485 million for Alzheimer's research at NIH and \$39.5 million for CDC Alzheimer's activities, including continued implementation of the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act. While FY26 funding negotiations continue, strong bipartisan support from [House](#) and [Senate](#)

Appropriations Committees reinforces the shared commitment to research and public health infrastructure.

Additional Updates

- Throughout the first half of the year, AIM worked to combat [misinformation](#) and [harmful myths](#) about Alzheimer's and dementia and reinforce the importance of [continued investment](#) in the fight against Alzheimer's. Advocates showed a strong presence at congressional hearings featuring HHS Secretary Kennedy, FDA Commissioner Dr. Makary, CMS Administrator Dr. Oz, and NIH Director Dr. Bhattacharya, where bipartisan and bicameral support was consistently demonstrated.
- **March:** AIM partnered with AARP to advance the bipartisan Credit for Caring Act ([H.R. 2036/S. 925](#)), which would provide a nonrefundable tax credit of up to \$5,000 to help working family caregivers offset expenses such as home aides, respite care, and transportation. Bipartisan support continues to grow.
- **June:** The Association and AIM continue our engagement with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) on the Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) model, most recently presenting the new Alzheimer's Association® Dementia Care Navigation Training Series to CMMI staff.
- **November:** During National Family Caregivers Month, the Senate Special Committee on Aging held a [hearing](#) on the Older Americans Act. Alzheimer's Association volunteer Erick Montealegre of Florida testified, sharing his experience as a caregiver for his father living with mild cognitive impairment and highlighting the impact of OAA-supported programs. Read AIM's OAA letter of support [here](#) and statement for the record [here](#).
- **December:** AIM CEO Joanne Pike and AIM President Rob Egge participated in an in-depth interview with the Government Accountability Office about the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and their experiences on the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services for a forthcoming report.
- AIM also continued advocating for more policies affecting the Alzheimer's community, including access to telehealth, support for veterans, and efforts to combat elder abuse and senior isolation. AIM's latest letters of support and statements for the record are available [here](#).

Around the Alzheimer's Community

The New York Times highlighted the Alzheimer's Association U.S. POINTER study, outlining how a guided lifestyle program can improve cognition. Now, they're inviting you to put that science into action with a 5-Day Brain Health Challenge. [Learn more.](#)

Advocates in Action

Each month, we're featuring an advocate who engages with policymakers to ensure priorities that improve the lives of people impacted by Alzheimer's and all other dementia remain top-of-mind in Congress.

The advocacy journey of TJ Harvey of Mississippi has been deeply personal — and powerfully effective. After watching his family struggle for years to get his dad an early-onset Alzheimer's diagnosis, TJ turned that experience into action. [That personal journey is why he fought for change — and recently, his persistence paid off in a big way.](#)

Spotlight Corner

Each month this year, we're featuring a different member of Congress who has taken a leadership role in championing the needs of people living with Alzheimer's and other dementia and their caregivers.

Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL-16)

Currently serving as Vice Chair of the powerful U.S. House Ways and Means Committee and Chairman of the Health Subcommittee, Rep. Vern Buchanan has been an incredible champion of the Alzheimer's Association and AIM during his time in Congress. As a vocal supporter of those living with Alzheimer's and other dementia, Rep. Buchanan joined his colleagues as a lead champion of the bipartisan Alzheimer's Screening and Protection (ASAP) Act (H.R. 6130/S. 3267).

“Early detection is the key to giving families more time, more options and more hope,” said Buchanan. “Having served as a caretaker to an elderly parent and with nearly 200,000 seniors in my district, this issue is deeply personal to me. With [7.2 million Americans](#) living with Alzheimer's nationwide and more than [580,000 Floridians](#) facing this disease, expanding access to early detection means giving more families the chance to plan ahead, seek care sooner and preserve their quality of life. My Alzheimer's Screening and

Prevention Act will make sure every American can benefit from these life-saving innovations as science continues to advance.”

Representative Buchanan also wrote an [op-ed](#) in RealClearHealth about the need to pass ASAP.

In the 118th Congress, Rep. Buchanan also co-led the bipartisan Mandating Exclusive Review of Individual Treatments (MERIT) Act alongside Rep. Nanette Barragan (D-CA-44) to ensure coverage of potentially life-saving drugs and new treatments for Medicare beneficiaries.

Thank you, Representative Buchanan, for your continued commitment toward our vision of a world without Alzheimer’s and all other dementia.