May 30, 2023

The Honorable John Garamendi

2368 Rayburn HOB

Washington, DC 20515

FAX 202- 225-5914

The Honorable Mike Thompson

268 Cannon Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

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The Honorable Doris Matsui

2311 Rayburn HOB

Washington, DC 20515

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**Re: Support Comprehensive Care Act for Alzheimer’s Act HR 2517**

Dear Congressman Garamendi, Congressman Thompson, and Congresswoman Matsui,

Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance is supporting bill HR 2517. We appreciate your support for this bill and your efforts to safeguard our vulnerable population by providing a comprehensive evaluation and treatment program for persons with dementia, along with a payment structure for dementia care management.

As promoters of wellbeing for our older adults through education, collaboration, and advocacy, Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance is in favor of high-quality dementia care. The Alzheimer’s Association is also in support of this bill and the changes it can make in our seniors’ and their caretakers’ lives.

The California Master Plan for Aging’s “Health Reimagined” goal identifies a need for access to care and services to optimize health and quality of life, promoting choice and independence. This bill will deliver on each goal component, including ensuring access to an interdisciplinary team with expertise in dementia care. The model proposed in the bill provides a person-centered service that will develop a dementia care plan, care coordination and navigation, and caregiver education and support.

This bill helps us to reach the California Master Plan for Aging’s stated goals and our goal of helping caregivers who are providing care for persons with dementia. This bill provides the medical, social, and economic components that are needed to manage this chronic disease.

A newly released update by the Alzheimer’s Association for California indicated that 690,000 individuals in California have Alzheimer’s, and projections indicate that this number will grow to 840,000 by 2025 and 1.5 million by 2040. One in six Californians over the age of 65 may develop this disease. It is imperative that evidence-based care be implemented, along with more research to support the decisions for up-to-date, informed, and compassionate care.

Sincerely,

Sheila Allen, RN, PhD

Executive Director, Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance