August **, 2026

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
House Energy & Commerce Committee
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Energy & Commerce Committee
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jason Smith
Chairman
House Ways & Means Committee
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
House Ways & Means Committee
372 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the Alzheimer's Screening and Prevention (ASAP) Act (H.R. 6130/S. 3267)

Dear Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Neal:

As clinician members of the Alliance for Patient Access, we are writing in support of the ASAP Act (H.R. 6130/S.3267). The legislation would modernize Medicare coverage to improve access to early Alzheimer's detection tools.

Founded in 2006, AfPA is a national network of policy-minded health care providers who advocate for patient-centered care. AfPA supports health policies that reinforce clinical decision making, promote personalized care and protect the clinician-patient relationship. Motivated by these principles, AfPA members participate in clinician working groups, advocacy initiatives, stakeholder coalitions and the creation of educational materials. AfPA manages an Alzheimer's Initiative, which convenes providers dedicated to ensuring a patient-centered approach to Alzheimer's disease treatment.

An estimated 7.4 million Americans age 65 and older live with Alzheimer's disease, and that number could nearly double by 2060, underscoring the urgent need for earlier diagnosis and treatment.[1] The disease's toll is already severe: one in three older adults dies with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia. The financial burden is equally significant. In 2026, total payments for health care, long-term care, and hospice services for people living with Alzheimer's or other dementias are projected to reach $409 billion. Average per-person Medicare payments for beneficiaries with Alzheimer's or other dementias are nearly three times as great as payments for beneficiaries without these conditions. The costs of inaction on Alzheimer's disease to patients, families, and the Medicare program are substantial and growing.

Blood-based biomarker testing represents a significant advance in Alzheimer's diagnosis. In May 2025, the FDA cleared the first blood test for Alzheimer's disease to aid diagnosis in symptomatic patients age 55 and older.[2] In October 2025, the FDA cleared a second test, specifically for use in the primary care setting to help

[1] https://www.alz.org/alzheimers-dementia/facts-figures
[2] https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-clears-first-blood-test-used-diagnosing-alzheimers-disease

rule out Alzheimer's-related amyloid pathology.[3] As recently as August of this year, an additional test was cleared by the FDA, establishing the first exclusionary and confirmatory blood-based biomarker test for Alzheimer's disease. These tests offer a minimally invasive, more accessible alternative to PET imaging and cerebrospinal fluid testing, both of which are costly, limited in availability, and often require a specialist referral. These clearances reflect a diagnostic field advancing faster than the coverage policies meant to keep pace with it.

These diagnostic advances are especially significant considering new treatment options. In recent years, the FDA has approved several amyloid-targeting therapies that target the underlying biology of Alzheimer's disease and have been shown to slow disease progression in patients with mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia. Both treatments require confirmation of amyloid pathology before they can be prescribed, meaning timely access to biomarker testing is now a prerequisite for patients to be evaluated for these therapies. This evolution in treatment options has been profound, as previous therapeutics for Alzheimer's disease strictly addressed symptomatic concerns.

Beyond current applications, biomedical innovation in Alzheimer's continues to expand. There are now tests and therapies in development that both identify and treat abnormal tau protein accumulation, another of the biological processes that cause Alzheimer's disease.

As the evidence base for blood-based biomarkers continues to grow and additional tests move through the FDA review process, consistent Medicare coverage will be essential to ensuring these tools reach patients in a timely and predictable way, allowing patients to make informed decisions and access appropriate treatment.

Under current law, however, Medicare cannot cover a screening test unless Congress specifically allows for it or the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends it, a process that can take years to complete. The ASAP Act fills that gap, giving HHS the authority and flexibility to ensure that outdated policies do not hinder access to screening, diagnosis and treatment.

Alzheimer's disease is often diagnosed late, after symptoms have already progressed and treatment options are more limited. For Medicare beneficiaries, who make up the population most affected by this disease, reliable coverage of blood-based biomarker testing is critical to identifying patients early, when treatment and lifestyle interventions are most effective.

The ASAP Act would support earlier diagnosis and increased treatment options by:

- Giving HHS greater authority to provide coverage for preventive services
- Allowing Medicare Part B to cover routine, FDA-approved or cleared, blood-tests for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias
- Reducing administrative burden on clinicians and clarifying reimbursement policies

Coverage of these tests can provide additional information that may allow for expedited diagnosis and earlier intervention. This means clinicians can identify at-risk patients earlier in the disease process and explore expanded treatment options, while patients and caregivers gain additional time and information to make decisions about their treatment journey.

[3] https://www.alz.org/news/2025/fda-clearance-blood-test-primary-care-rule-out-alzheimers-related-amyloid-pathology

It is for these reasons that we urge your support for the ASAP Act, legislation that will help ensure comprehensive biomarker blood test coverage for Alzheimer's disease. If we can provide further details or answer any questions, please reach out to pmarvin@allianceforpatientaccess.org or (202) 951-7097.

Sincerely,