



June 5, 2014

The Honorable Edward Royce
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs
United States Congress
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eliot Engel
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Affairs
United States Congress
B-360 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Dear Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel:

Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease (LEAD Coalition)ⁱ respectfully requests that the Committee on Foreign Affairs favorably report out House Resolution 489,ⁱⁱ which calls for the United States to lead a global response to Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

Alzheimer's disease and related disorders currently impose enormous costs to our nation's health and prosperity, costs that are skyrocketing.ⁱⁱⁱ Today, more than five million Americans^{iv} have dementia at an annual cost to our economy exceeding \$200 billion;^v it kills approximately 500,000 Americans each year, making it the third leading cause of death in the United States.^{vi} Globally, 44 million people have dementia^{vii} with annual costs exceeding \$600 billion or about 1 percent of the world's GDP.^{viii} If the current trajectory of the disease persists, upwards of 135 million persons worldwide will have dementia in 2050.^{ix}

In 2012, the United States established a national goal of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer's by 2025 along with goals for strengthening clinical care and long-term services and support.^x Less than 18 months later, the G8 (now G7) Dementia Summit followed American leadership and adopted a dozen research, care and support goals – notably including America's 2025 goal.^{xi} Five weeks ago, the World Dementia Council^{xii} convened to drive and coordinate the G7 nations' work. Over the coming nine months, G7 nations -- in partnership with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the World Health Organization, the European Commission, the European Union Joint Programme on Neurodegenerative Disease, and civil society -- will host more than half a dozen 'legacy meetings' to develop cross sector partnerships and innovation to accomplish all the objectives agreed upon at the 2013 Dementia Summit.^{xiii} The legacy meetings will culminate in February at the National Institutes of Health's Alzheimer's Disease Research Summit 2015.

H. Res. 489 calls upon the United States to lead and support creation of a Global Alzheimer's and Dementia Action Plan. The plan would coordinate national and international efforts to advance: research; clinical care; support for caregivers; and prevention, public awareness and education. American leadership will ensure that limited resources are used wisely and without duplication of effort. International coordination and collaboration will accelerate development of effective therapies and treatments while propagating best care and support practices for people with dementia and their caregivers. American leadership changed the trajectory in the global fight against HIV/AIDS; now is the time for similar American leadership against Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

The LEAD Coalition applauds Representative Chris Smith and Representative Chaka Fattah for introducing H.Res. 489 and respectfully urges the Committee to favorably report out the resolution as quickly as possible.

Thank you for considering our views and for your commitment to overcoming Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. Please contact Ian Kremer, the LEAD Coalition's executive director, at ikremer@leadcoalition.org or (571) 383-9916, with questions or for additional information.

Sincerely,

Abe's Garden

Academy of Radiology Research

ActivistsAgainstAlzheimer's

African American Network Against
Alzheimer's

Aging and Memory Disorder Programs,
Howard University

Alzheimers North Carolina

Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of
Wisconsin

Alzheimer's Foundation of America,
LEAD Coalition co-convener

Alzheimer's Research and Prevention
Foundation

Alzheimer's Tennessee

American Association for Geriatric
Psychiatry

American Association for Long Term
Care Nursing

American Brain Coalition

Assisted Living Federation of America

Laura D. Baker, PhD (Wake Forest
School of Medicine*)

Beating Alzheimer's by Embracing
Science

James Brewer, M.D., Ph.D. (UC San
Diego and Alzheimer's Disease
Cooperative Study*)

BrightFocus Foundation

Caregiver Action Network

Center for Alzheimer Research and
Treatment, Harvard Medical School

ClergyAgainstAlzheimer's

Cleveland Clinic Foundation

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| Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research | Janssen Research & Development, LLC |
| Cognition Therapeutics | Keep Memory Alive |
| CorTechs Labs | Walter A. Kukull, PhD (School of Public Health, University of Washington*) |
| Cortica Neurosciences, Inc. | Linked Senior, Inc. |
| Critical Path Institute | LuMind Foundation (formerly Down Syndrome Research and Treatment Foundation) |
| Jeffrey Cummings, MD, ScD (Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health*) | Kostas Lyketsos, M.D., M.H.S. (Johns Hopkins Memory and Alzheimer's Treatment Center*) |
| Cure Alzheimer's Fund | Memory Training Centers of America |
| Darrell K. Royal Fund for Alzheimer's Research | Merck |
| Rachelle S. Doody, MD, PhD (Baylor College of Medicine*) | David G. Morgan, PhD (USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute*) |
| Eli Lilly and Company | National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities |
| Forest Laboratories, Inc. | National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc. (NCBA) |
| Geoffrey Beene Foundation Alzheimer's Initiative | National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care |
| Georgetown University Medical Center Memory Disorders Program | National Council on Aging (NCOA) |
| Gerontological Society of America | National Down Syndrome Society |
| Global Coalition on Aging | National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices |
| David Holtzman, MD (Washington University School of Medicine, Department of Neurology*) | New York Academy of Sciences |
| Home Instead Senior Care | NYU Alzheimer's Disease Center |
| Huntington's Disease Society of America | NYU Langone Center on Cognitive Neurology |
| Inspire | Thomas O. Obisesan, MD, MPH (Howard University Hospital*) |
| Iona Senior Services | |

OWL-The Voice of Midlife and Older Women

Pat Summitt Foundation

Pfizer, Inc.

Piramal Imaging

Project Lifesaver International

RemeGenix, Inc.

Research!America

ResearchersAgainstAlzheimer's

Sage Bionetworks

Stephen Salloway, M.D., M.S. (The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University*)

Reisa A. Sperling, MD, MMSc (Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment, Harvard Medical School*)

Rudolph Tanzi, PhD (Department of Neurology, MGH/Harvard Medical School*)

Taos Health Systems

The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration

R. Scott Turner, MD, PhD (Georgetown University Memory Disorders Program*)

USAgainstAlzheimer's, LEAD Coalition co-convenor

USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute

Volunteers of America

Washington University in St. Louis Department of Neurology, the Knight Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, and the Hope Center for Neurological Disorders

Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute

Women Against Alzheimer's

** Affiliations of individual researchers are for identification purposes only and do not necessarily represent the endorsement of the affiliated institution.*

ⁱ [Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease](#) (LEAD Coalition) is a diverse and growing national coalition of 67 member organizations including patient advocacy and voluntary health non-profits, philanthropies and foundations, trade and professional associations, academic research and clinical institutions, and homecare, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies. The LEAD Coalition works collaboratively to focus the nation's strategic attention on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias -- including vascular, Lewy body or frontotemporal dementia -- and to accelerate transformational progress in detection and diagnosis, care and support, and research leading to prevention, effective treatment and eventual cure. One or more participants may have a financial interest in the subjects addressed.

ⁱⁱ <http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-resolution/489>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMsa1204629>

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- iv <http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/NatlPlan2014.pdf>
- v <http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMsa1204629>
- vi <http://www.neurology.org/content/early/2014/03/05/WNL.0000000000000240>
- vii <http://www.alz.co.uk/research/GlobalImpactDementia2013.pdf>
- viii http://www.nia.nih.gov/sites/default/files/global_health_and_aging.pdf
- ix <http://www.alz.co.uk/research/GlobalImpactDementia2013.pdf>
- x <http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/NatlPlan.pdf>
- xi <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g8-dementia-summit-agreements/g8-dementia-summit-declaration>
- xii <http://dementiachallenge.dh.gov.uk/about-the-council/>
- xiii <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g8-dementia-summit-agreements/g8-dementia-summit-declaration>