



September 17, 2014

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
S. 128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
S. 128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS &
Education
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS &
Education
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS &
Education
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS &
Education
1001 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Dear Chairmen Mikulski, Harkin, Rogers and Kingston and Ranking Members Shelby, Moran, Lowey & DeLauro:

As you work to assemble a final Fiscal Year 2015 spending package, **we urge you to include the \$100 million increase above Fiscal Year 2014 levels for the National Institute on Aging (NIA) that the Senate appropriations committee included in its draft Labor, HHS and Education bill. We also urge you to include within the final legislation the resources provided for in the Senate bill to advance Alzheimer's**

disease and related dementias public health and caregiver support programs, and that you consider any potential opportunities to further increase any of these amounts.

You understand the immense impact – current and projected – that Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias will have on our nation’s health and finances. Providing this increase to the NIA will move us closer to the level of annual public research funding leading researchers have estimated is needed to maximize our chances of achieving the national goal of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer’s disease by 2025.ⁱ The NIA and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) – including other institutes such as the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB), and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) – are supporting a number of promising research projects to: understand the genetic risk factors;ⁱⁱ address the disproportionate impact on women,ⁱⁱⁱ African Americans,^{iv} Hispanics,^v and persons with intellectual disabilities,^{vi} and pursue cutting-edge but costly and time consuming trials aimed at preventing or substantially slowing disease progression by administering treatments much earlier in the disease process.^{vii} Including the additional \$100 million for the NIA that has been recommended by the Senate will provide additional resources to advance other meritorious Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias research projects. This action will also demonstrate further the resolve behind our national goal, particularly at a time when other nations are looking to the United States for leadership and are beginning to take similar measures.

We understand the challenges you face in finalizing the FY 15 appropriations package. At the same time, we must recognize the current and projected health and financial threats posed by Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. Today our nation is spending more than \$150 billion annually in Medicare and Medicaid costs to care for upwards of five million persons impacted.^{viii} Alzheimer’s disease contributes to the deaths of approximately 500,000 Americans each year, making it the third leading cause of death in the United States.^{ix} These figures will explode over the coming decades as our population ages, but an adequate commitment to research can help us prevent this future and move us closer to achieving our 2025 goal.^x

Thank you for considering our views and for your commitment to overcoming Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders. Please contact Nick Manetto from USAgainstAlzheimer’s at Nicholas.Manetto@faegrebd.com or (202) 312-7499, or Ian Kremer from the Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer’s Disease (LEAD) Coalition^{xi} 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

Alliance for Aging Research

Alliance for Patient Access

Alzheimers North Carolina

Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance of
Wisconsin

Alzheimer’s Foundation of America,
LEAD Coalition co-convenor

Alzheimer's Tennessee	Cognition Therapeutics
AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine	CorTechs Labs
American Academy of Neurology	Jeffrey Cummings, MD, ScD (Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health*)
American Association for Long Term Care Nursing	Cure Alzheimer's Fund
American Brain Coalition	Darrell K. Royal Fund for Alzheimer's Research
American Geriatrics Society	Department of Neurology, Washington University School of Medicine
American Life Science Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	Rachelle S. Doody, MD, PhD (Baylor College of Medicine*)
Assisted Living Federation of America	Georgetown University Medical Center Memory Disorders Program
Laura D. Baker, PhD (Wake Forest School of Medicine*)	Gerontological Society of America
Banner Alzheimer's Institute	Lisa P. Gwyther, MSW, LCSW (Duke University Medical Center*)
Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute	Hearthstone Alzheimer Care
B'nai B'rith International	David Holtzman, MD (Washington University School of Medicine, Department of Neurology*)
Alice Bonner, PhD, RN (Northeastern University Bouve' College of Health Sciences*)	Hospice Foundation of America
James Brewer, M.D., Ph.D. (UC San Diego and Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study*)	Janssen Research & Development, LLC
BrightFocus Foundation	Keep Memory Alive
Byrd Alzheimer's Institute, University of South Florida	Walter A. Kukull, PhD (School of Public Health, University of Washington*)
Caregiver Action Network	Latino Alzheimer's and Memory Disorders Alliance
Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment, Harvard Medical School	Lewy Body Dementia Association
Center for BrainHealth at The University of Texas at Dallas	LuMind Foundation (formerly Down Syndrome Research and Treatment Foundation)
Sandra Bond Chapman, PhD (Center for BrainHealth at The University of Texas at Dallas*)	David G. Morgan, PhD (Byrd Alzheimer's Institute, University of South Florida*)
ClergyAgainstAlzheimer's	National Alliance for Caregiving
Cleveland Clinic Foundation	National Association of Social Workers
Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research	National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities

National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc. (NCBA)	Research!America
National Certification Council for Activity Professionals	ResearchersAgainstAlzheimer's
National Council on Aging	Stephen Salloway, M.D., M.S. (The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University*)
National Down Syndrome Society	Reisa A. Sperling, MD, MMSc (Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment, Harvard Medical School*)
National Hispanic Council On Aging (NHCOA)	Rudolph Tanzi, PhD (Department of Neurology, MGH/Harvard Medical School*)
National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices	The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration
Neurotechnology Industry Organization	THE GREEN HOUSE® Project
New York Academy of Sciences	The I'm Still Here Foundation
NYU Alzheimer's Disease Center	R. Scott Turner, MD, PhD (Georgetown University Memory Disorders Program*)
NYU Langone Center on Cognitive Neurology	USAgainstAlzheimer's, LEAD Coalition co-convener
Thomas O. Obisesan, MD, MPH (Howard University Hospital*)	Volunteers of America
OWL-The Voice of Women 40+	Michael W. Weiner, MD (University of California San Francisco*)
Pat Summitt Foundation	Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute
Pioneer Network	Women Against Alzheimer's
Piramal Imaging S.A.	
Project Lifesaver International	
Peter Reed, PhD (Sanford Center for Aging, University of Nevada Reno*)	

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

ⁱ <http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/NatlPlan.pdf>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers/publication/2012-2013-alzheimers-disease-progress-report/genetics-alzheimers-disease>

ⁱⁱⁱ http://www.alz.org/downloads/facts_figures_2014.pdf

^{iv} http://www.usagainstalzheimers.org/sites/default/files/USA2_AAN_CostsReport.pdf

^v <http://www.nhcoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/NHCOA-Alzheimers-Executive-Summary.pdf>

^{vi} http://aadmd.org/sites/default/files/NTG_Thinker_Report.pdf

vii <http://www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers/publication/2012-2013-alzheimers-disease-progress-report/advancing-discovery-alzheimers#priorities>

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

ix <http://www.neurology.org/content/early/2014/03/05/WNL.0000000000000240>

x <http://www.alz.org/trajectory>

xi <http://www.leadcoalition.org> Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease (the LEAD Coalition) is a diverse national coalition of 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.