



May 2, 2012

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
United States Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

On behalf of Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease (LEAD), a national coalition of organizations serving people with Alzheimer's disease and caregivers and pursuing therapies to prevent and treat the disease, we write to urge that the first National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease includes the recommendations of the Advisory Council necessary to achieve President Obama's bold goals.

We applaud President Obama for making the historic commitment to establish the aggressive and urgently needed goals of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer's disease, enhancing care quality and efficiency, and expanding supports for individuals with dementia and their families. We thank you and the Inter-Agency Workgroup for crafting a draft plan that advances these goals and reflects the spirit of the landmark National Alzheimer's Plan Act unanimously passed by Congress and which LEAD members and millions of advocates worked so hard to enact. The goals are courageous and are the strongest position ever taken by an Administration to address Alzheimer's disease and dementia; therefore, it is critically important that the plan include robust corresponding strategies and action items.

During the April 17, 2012, meeting of the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care and Services, the non-federal members of the council unanimously approved a bold set of more than 30 recommendations aimed at further strengthening the draft plan. LEAD strongly supports these proposals and urges you to incorporate these recommendations within the strategies and action items. Specifically, we urge you to adopt the Advisory Council recommendations and ensure the final plan includes measures:

- Providing high-level, overall accountability for National Plan implementation.
- Recognizing and proposing a path forward to secure the public and private resources needed to achieve all of the goals.
- Forming robust public-private partnerships between government and industry to inform the research agenda, shorten the time and cost of developing therapies, and accelerate delivery of safe and effective treatments to individuals with Alzheimer's.

- Fostering greater collaboration on research and other issues with international counterparts to achieve global coordination and progress toward a Global Alzheimer's Action Plan.
- Expanding attention on early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.
- Ensuring access to the full array of long-term support services for special and emerging populations of people with Alzheimer's disease, including younger people and those with developmental disabilities.
- Addressing caregivers' physical and behavioral health.
- Expanding access to high quality, cost-effective and evidence based care and redoubling efforts to test and validate innovative care interventions.

Madame Secretary, the United States is poised to become a global leader in the battle against Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The Administration has established a solid foundation with the draft plans. The time is now to ensure the final plan is equally bold and that it includes the specific actions necessary to achieve our shared goal of a world without Alzheimer's disease.

Thank you for your leadership. If LEAD may be of assistance at any time, please contact Ian Kremer, Executive Director of LEAD, at ikremer@leadcoalition.org or 571-383-9916.

Respectfully,

Alliance for Aging Research

Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation

Alzheimer's Foundation of America

Alzheimer's Research and Prevention
Foundation

American Academy of Neurology

American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry

American Association for Long Term Care
Nursing

American Geriatrics Society

American Health Assistance Foundation

Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment,
Harvard Medical School

Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Critical Path Institute

Cure Alzheimer's Fund

Eli Lilly & Company

Geoffrey Beene Foundation - Alzheimer's
Initiative

Global Coalition on Aging

Janssen Alzheimer Immunotherapy R&D, LLC

National Alliance for Caregiving

National Association of States United for
Aging and Disabilities

National Family Caregivers Association

Pfizer Inc.

Project Lifesaver International

USAgainst Alzheimer's

Vradenburg Foundation