



May 16, 2013

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

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS &
Education
Washington, DC 20510

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Chairman Harkin, Vice Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Moran:

We applaud Congress and the Administration for recognizing and responding decisively to the challenges of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. Equally important, we applaud your determination to seize the enormous opportunities for America if we invest in the science, care and support required to overcome these challenges. Doing so is a national priority, an economic and budgetary necessity, a health and moral imperative.

We urge that as you assemble the Fiscal Year 2014 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, you provide necessary resources for the commitment to prevent and treat Alzheimer's disease by 2025 and **include within your bill a minimum of \$80 million in additional funding to support Alzheimer's disease and related disorders research conducted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) along with at least \$20 million to support important caregiving and patient support initiatives managed by the Administration for Community Living (ACL)**, both of which were included in the Administration's budget proposal.

Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease (LEAD) is a diverse and growing coalition of 58 member organizations including patient advocacy and voluntary health non-profits, philanthropies and foundations, trade and professional associations, academic research and clinical institutions, and biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies. The LEAD Coalition works collaboratively to focus the nation's strategic attention on Alzheimer's disease and related disorders and to accelerate transformational progress in care and support, detection and diagnosis, and research leading to prevention, effective treatment and eventual cure. One or more participants may have a financial interest in the subjects addressed.

Alzheimer's disease and related disorders currently impose enormous costs to our nation's health and prosperity, costs that are skyrocketing. The choice before our nation is not whether we will address and pay for research and care supports but rather how we will do so: Will we resolve to innovate our way out of danger, as we have chosen to do when confronted with other similar challenges, or will we incur millions of deaths and hundreds of billions of dollars in annual healthcare costs because we acted too tentatively or too late?

This month marks the first anniversary since the issuance of the historic National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease. The plan's first goal is preventing and treating Alzheimer's disease by 2025. To achieve this, we must fulfill the strategy and actions, including the commitment of federal and non-federal funding for high-priority Alzheimer's disease and related disorders scientific research. The right and necessary next step is to include at least an additional \$80 million for Alzheimer's disease and related disorders research funding at the NIH above the estimated FY 13 level. These dollars will support potentially groundbreaking research projects, particularly those aimed at better understanding the causes of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders and exploring ways to intervene at the earliest stages.

We also urge that you include \$20 million in new funding to support ACL's vital work to develop and disseminate evidence-based support services for Alzheimer's disease and related disorders patients and family caregivers. These programs are instrumental in achieving the plan's goals to enhance care quality, efficiency and expand supports. They provide needed respite to family caregivers and training in best practices to meet the many challenges of providing care to persons with dementia. Until a treatment or cure comes to market, families rely on these programs to help their loved remain independent, in the community and free from more costly institutional settings.

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
Alliance for Aging Research
Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin
Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation
Alzheimer's Foundation of America
Alzheimers North Carolina
Alzheimer's Tennessee
AMDA – Dedicated to Long Term Care Medicine™
American Academy of Neurology
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association for Long Term Care Nursing
American Geriatrics Society
Assisted Living Federation of America
Banner Alzheimer's Institute
Beating Alzheimer's by Embracing Science
BrightFocus Alzheimer's Disease Research
Caregiver Action Network
Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment, Harvard Medical School
Cognition Therapeutics
Cortica Neurosciences, Inc.
Cure Alzheimer's Fund
Dr. Michael Devous Sr. (University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center*)
Rachelle S. Doody, MD, PhD (Baylor College of Medicine*)

Friends of the National Institute on Aging
Geoffrey Beene Foundation - Alzheimer's Initiative
Georgetown University Medical Center Memory Disorders Program
Gerontological Society of America
Global Coalition on Aging
Howard University, Aging and Memory Disorder Programs
Inspire
Iona Senior Services
Latino Alzheimer's and Memory Disorders Alliance
LeadingAge
Linked Senior, Inc.
Memory Enhancement Center of America, Inc.
MyCare Personal Assistance
Dave Morgan, PhD (USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute)
National Alliance for Caregiving
National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities
National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc. (NCBA)
National Down Syndrome Society
National Hispanic Council on Aging
Neurotechnology Industry Organization
New York Academy of Sciences
NYU Langone Comprehensive Center on Brain Aging/NYU Langone Silberstein Alzheimer's Institute

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USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute
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WomenAgainstAlzheimer's

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