



September 9, 2025

Dear Senator:

We reach out to you today to ask you to co-sponsor [S. 1799](#), bipartisan legislation sponsored by Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Mark Warner (D-VA) informally called The **Concentrating on High-Value Alzheimer's Needs to Get to an End (CHANGE) Act**. Now more than ever, the 7 million Americans who live with dementia and their 12 million unpaid family caregivers, along with all Americans who are at risk for developing Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia (AD/ADRD) in the coming decades, need Congress to continue to assert our country's non-partisan national priority to overcome AD/ADRD through additional action.

This legislation strengthens dementia detection, in turn catalyzing improved care, improving access to care, and accelerating science to prevent and effectively treat AD/ADRD. Specifically, the CHANGE Act directs the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to require professionals providing the Medicare Annual Wellness Visits (AWV)<sup>i</sup> and Welcome to Medicare Visits (WMV) to use cognitive impairment detection tools identified by the National Institute on Aging (NIA).<sup>ii</sup>

Use of these evidence-based tools will allow clinicians to better detect mild cognitive impairment and other early symptoms of AD/ADRD. Early detection and differential diagnosis is increasingly important in light of new Food and Drug Administration-approved<sup>iii, iv</sup> and Medicare-covered<sup>v</sup> therapies that are for use in early-stage Alzheimer's disease as well the launch of CMS's comprehensive dementia care model.<sup>vi</sup> Early detection and diagnosis also may motivate individuals to implement lifestyle and/or behavioral changes that could slow disease progression. As research and clinical care increasingly focus on intervening at the earliest point in the disease trajectory, shortcomings in disease detection impede progress toward breakthrough treatments and improved clinical outcomes.

CMS currently encourages, but does not require, providers to use a brief cognitive assessment tool. Consequently, many providers use "direct observation," rather than a structured and validated tool, to assess patients' cognitive health. Direct observation is not evidence-based, and all too often

contributes to under-diagnosis, delayed diagnosis, misdiagnosis, and/or non-disclosure of diagnosis. According to the 2025 Alzheimer's Association Facts & Figures report, only half of Medicare beneficiaries who have a diagnosis of Alzheimer's or another dementia in their Medicare billing records report being told of the diagnosis.<sup>vii</sup> Furthermore, a higher proportion of non-Hispanic black and Hispanic patients with dementia may be unaware of their condition, despite higher dementia prevalence in these groups, compared to non-Hispanic whites.<sup>viii</sup> Underutilization of validated assessment tools delays detection and diagnosis, resulting in decreased opportunities for people to access timely treatment options, including clinical research participation.

The CHANGE Act would direct providers to use the NIA-identified tools and improve care for millions of families currently facing AD/ADRD. When people receive a timely and accurate diagnosis, they have improved opportunities to make informed and productive medical, financial, legal, and spiritual choices to strengthen both their own quality of life and that of their family caregivers. The CHANGE Act strengthens providers' readiness to conduct timely and accurate cognitive assessment, convey diagnosis, document this in a patient's record, and assist appropriate patients to be evaluated for potential access to disease modifying therapies.

Overcoming dementia is a budgetary necessity, an economic priority, and a health and moral imperative for the United States. Strong Congressional support over the last 15 years has provided new hope and opportunities for individuals and families facing these devastating diseases today. We thank you for considering our views and for your commitment to overcoming AD/ADRD.

To learn more about the CHANGE Act or to become a co-sponsor, please contact Dana Richter ([dana\\_richter@capito.senate.gov](mailto:dana_richter@capito.senate.gov)) with Senator Capito or Colleen Nguyen ([Colleen\\_Nguyen@warner.senate.gov](mailto:Colleen_Nguyen@warner.senate.gov)) with Senator Warner.

For any questions or additional information about this or other AD/ADRD policy issues, please contact Ian Kremer ([ikremer@leadcoalition.org](mailto:ikremer@leadcoalition.org)), executive director, or Courtney Wallin ([cwallin@leadcoalition.org](mailto:cwallin@leadcoalition.org)), federal policy director, from Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease (the LEAD Coalition).<sup>ix</sup>

Sincerely,

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Acadia Pharmaceuticals Inc

AgeneBio

ACCSES – The Voice of Disability Service  
Providers

Aging Life Care Association®

Alliance for Aging Research

AC Immune

Alliance for Patient Access

Advanced Medical Technology Association  
(AdvaMed)

AlterDementia, LLC

Alzheimer's Association  
 Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center, Inc. (ADRC)  
 Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation  
 Alzheimer's Foundation of America  
 Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM)  
 Alzheimer's Los Angeles  
 Alzheimer's New Jersey  
 Alzheimer's Orange County  
 Alzheimer's San Diego  
 Alzheimer's Tennessee  
 Alzheon  
 American Academy of Neurology  
 American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry  
 American Brain Coalition  
 American Federation for Aging Research  
 American Medical Women's Association  
 American Neurological Association  
 American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP)  
 American Society on Aging  
 Argentum | Expanding Senior Living  
 Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network — AWN  
 The Balm In Gilead, Inc.  
 Banner Alzheimer's Institute  
 Banner Sun Health Research Institute  
 Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging  
 Biogen  
 Biomarker Collaborative  
 Bone Health and Osteoporosis Foundation  
 Boston Biotech Forum  
 The Brain Donor Project  
 Bridge Builder Strategies  
 Brigade Health  
 BrightFocus Foundation  
 Caregiver Action Network  
 CaringKind, The Heart of Alzheimer's Caregiving  
 Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of Elders (CARIE)  
 Center for BrainHealth at The University of Texas at Dallas  
 Center for Healthy Aging  
 Center to Advance Palliative Care  
 Chambers-Grundy Center for Transformative Neuroscience, Department of Brain Health, University of Nevada Las Vegas  
 Chronic Disease Coalition  
 CNS Innovations  
 Coalition of Wisconsin Aging and Health Groups  
 The Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy and Innovation  
 Cognitive Dynamics Foundation  
 Cognito Therapeutics  
 Council on Radionuclides and Radiopharmaceuticals, Inc.  
 Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Foundation  
 Cure Alzheimer's Fund  
 Cure MAPT FTD  
 CurePSP  
 Cure VCP Disease  
 Danaher Diagnostics (Beckman Coulter, Cepheid, HemoCue, LeicaBiosystems, Mammotome & Radiometer)  
 Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative  
 Dementia Alliance International  
 Dementia Alliance of North Carolina  
 Diverse Elders Coalition  
 Easterseals Iowa  
 Eisai, Inc.  
 Eli Lilly and Company  
 Exon 20 Group  
 Family Caregiver Alliance  
 FTD Disorders Registry, LLC  
 Fujirebio Diagnostics, Inc.

Genentech, Inc.  
 Genetic Alliance  
 Genworth  
 Georgetown University Medical Center  
 Memory Disorders Program  
 Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses  
 Association  
 Gerontological Society of America  
 Global Alzheimer's Platform Foundation  
 Global CEO Initiative on Alzheimer's  
 Disease  
 Global Healthy Living Foundation  
 Hadassah, The Women's Zionist  
 Organization of America, Inc.  
 HealthyWomen  
 HFC  
 Huffington Center on Aging, Baylor College  
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 Huntington's Disease Society of America  
 Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association  
 ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy  
 Network  
 Infusion Access Foundation (IAF)  
 International Association for Indigenous  
 Aging  
 Iona Senior Services  
 Iowa State Grange  
 Johns Hopkins Memory and Alzheimer's  
 Treatment Center  
 Justice In Aging  
 K-T Support Group (Klippel-Trenaunay  
 Support)  
 Las Vegas HEALS  
 Latino Alzheimer's and Memory Disorders  
 Alliance  
 Lewy Body Dementia Association  
 Lewy Body Dementia Resource Center  
 Life Molecular Imaging, a Lantheus  
 company  
 Long Term Care Community Coalition  
 Lorenzo's House  
 LuMind IDSC Foundation  
 Lundbeck Pharmaceuticals LLC  
 Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.  
 Marymount University  
 Massachusetts Alzheimer's Disease  
 Research Center (Harvard Medical  
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 Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance  
 (MITA)  
 Medicare Rights Center  
 Memory Care Home Solutions  
 MET Crusaders  
 Michigan State University Alzheimer's  
 Alliance  
 Milken Institute Alliance to Improve  
 Dementia Care  
 Mindr  
 Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on  
 Aging  
 Mount Sinai Center for Cognitive Health  
 National Adult Protective Services  
 Association (NAPSA)  
 National Alliance for Caregiving  
 National Association of Activity  
 Professionals  
 National Association of Social Workers  
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 National Association of State Long-Term  
 Care Ombudsman Programs (NASOP)  
 National Certification Council for Activity  
 Professionals  
 National Consumers League  
 National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-  
 Term Care  
 National Council of Dementia Minds  
 National Down Syndrome Society  
 National Hartford Center of Gerontological  
 Nursing Excellence  
 National Menopause Foundation  
 National Minority Quality Forum  
 National Respite Coalition

Nebraska AIDS Project  
Neurogen Biomarking  
Neurotech Network  
Nevada Chronic Care Collaborative  
NFL Neurological Center  
Noah Homes  
The Ohio Council for Cognitive Health  
Organic Acidemia Association  
Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc.  
Owl Therapeutics  
Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease  
Patients Rising Now  
Pat Summitt Foundation  
PD-L1 Amplifieds  
Pentara Corporation  
Positrigo AG  
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Prevent Blindness Wisconsin  
PrognosUs  
PXE International  
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Roche Diagnostics Corporation  
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Society for Women's Health Research  
Synthesis Brain Health  
TauRx Pharmaceuticals Ltd.  
The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration  
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Tokyo Metropolitan Institute for Geriatrics and Gerontology  
Tolion, Inc.  
Toronto Memory Program  
Trellis/ACT on Alzheimer's  
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University of Chicago, Healthy Aging & Alzheimer's Research Care Center  
University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, Comprehensive Center for Brain Health (Jim Galvin)  
University of Minnesota Center for Healthy Aging and Innovation (CHAI)  
University of Rochester Alzheimer's Disease Care, Research and Education Program (AD-CARE)  
UsAgainstAlzheimer's  
USAging  
Veravas  
Voices of Alzheimer's  
Volunteers of America  
Wareologie, Inc.

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- Long-Jun Wu, PhD (University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, IMM-Center for Neuroimmunology and Glial Biology\*)
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- Kristine Yaffe MD (University of California San Francisco, School of Medicine\*)
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- Andrew Yoo, PhD (Washington University School of Medicine, Department Developmental Biology\*)
- Martin Zhang, MD, PhD (Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital\*)
- Julie M. Zissimopoulos, PhD (University of Southern California, Price School of Public Policy\*)

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/preventive-services/medicare-wellness-visits.html> (see: Annual Wellness Visit Health Risk Assessment, Detect any cognitive impairment patients may have)

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/alzheimers-dementia-resources-for-professionals>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-converts-novel-alzheimers-disease-treatment-traditional-approval>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/news-events-human-drugs/fda-approves-treatment-adults-alzheimers-disease>

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coverage/coverage-evidence-development/monoclonal-antibodies-directed-against-amyloid-treatment-alzheimers-disease-ad>

<sup>vi</sup> <https://innovation.cms.gov/innovation-models/guide>

<sup>vii</sup> <https://www.alz.org/getmedia/ef8f48f9-ad36-48ea-87f9-b74034635c1e/alzheimers-facts-and-figures.pdf>

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viii <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7552114/>

ix <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 home and residential care providers, large health systems, and biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies. The LEAD Coalition works collaboratively to focus the nation's strategic attention on dementia in all its causes -- including Alzheimer's disease, vascular disease, Lewy body dementia, and frontotemporal degeneration -- 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.