



November 20, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee
United States Senate
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
Committee
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Via electronic delivery

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

We thank you and your colleagues for the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee's work to accelerate progress on the priorities of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease.ⁱ In that spirit, we strongly encourage the HELP Committee to advance as soon as possible **S. 2067, the Ensuring Useful Research Expenditures is Key for Alzheimer's (EUREKA) Act**, to supplement, not supplant, other public and private sources of dementia research funding.

The EUREKA Act's key provisions reflect a keen understanding of dementia's enormous personal and societal toll. The Act places improved quality of life for people facing dementia today on equal footing with pursuit of scientific progress. The Act addresses dementia in all its causes including Alzheimer's disease, vascular disease, Lewy body disease, and frontotemporal degeneration. This is a time of great and deserved hope in dementia as Congressⁱⁱ and the National Institutes of Healthⁱⁱⁱ have begun to address chronic underfunding of research. The Act's focus on pay for success highlights that we need not only more research but better research, research that improves the lives of people living with dementia and caregivers today and that reduces or eliminates the risk of people having to live with dementia in the future.^{iv} We all know the public health,^v budgetary and macro-economic^{vi} statistics about dementia. All too many people know first-hand the individual human toll, including the disproportionate impact on women,^{vii} African Americans,^{viii} Hispanics,^{ix} and persons with intellectual disabilities (including those with Down syndrome).^x The EUREKA Act gives voice to the fundamental truth that dementia research needs greater urgency, greater innovation, and greater results.

We are among the leading proponents for an increased and sustained national commitment to research as well as for the development of tools and policies to accelerate the review of potential interventions and therapies by the Food and Drug Administration. The EUREKA Act would complement these and other efforts by authorizing prize competitions to pursue transformative solutions to some of the most vexing challenges hindering development of improved therapies and treatments, including care delivery mechanisms, for people with dementia and those who provide care.

Spurred by the potential power of the prize, the Act leverages this interest and potential reward by authorizing the National Institutes of Health to work with other relevant federal agencies and outside experts to develop EUREKA challenges. Challenges will be designed by experts in therapy development, healthcare innovation and prize competition sectors and can span a wide array of topics ranging from basic scientific breakthroughs through the development of innovative technologies to better assist people with dementia and caregivers. Each competition will stipulate specific desired goals and outcomes as well as metrics, and a panel of expert judges will evaluate all submissions to make recommendations on what, if any, awards should be made. The pay-for-success nature of the concept means that, aside from the costs associated with designing the competitions, public funds would be expended only upon achievement of success, creating a winning proposition given limited public funds. When successful, the EUREKA Act could serve as an evidence-based model for replicating the prize strategy in addressing other challenging diseases and conditions.

We urge you and your colleagues on the HELP Committee to review this legislation and to strongly consider advancing it in the 114th Congress. The issue appears to be particularly timely given the HELP Committee's extensive efforts to develop a forward-looking medical innovation agenda to accelerate development and delivery of therapies and treatments. With more than 5 million Americans living with dementia today, and a recent study indicating that Alzheimer's is the nation's most costly disease, this is the right time to implement the EUREKA Act's novel approach to therapeutic development and caregiving innovation.

Thank you for considering our views and for your commitment to overcoming Alzheimer's disease and other causes of dementia. Please contact Ian Kremer, executive director of Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease (the LEAD Coalition),^{xi} ikremer@leadcoalition.org or (571) 383-9916, with questions or for additional information.

Sincerely,

ACT on Alzheimer's
ActivistsAgainstAlzheimer's

African American Network
Against Alzheimer's

Ageless Alliance

AgeneBio

Aging and Memory Disorder Programs,
Howard University

Allergan

Alliance for Patient Access

Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance
of Wisconsin

Alzheimer's Drug Discovery
Foundation

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

Alzheimers North Carolina

Alzheimer's Tennessee

American Academy of Neurology

American Association for Geriatric
Psychiatry

American Association for Long
Term Care Nursing

American Federation for
Aging Research (AFAR)

Argentum

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

Beating Alzheimer's by Embracing
Science

Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences
Institute

Soo Borson MD (University of
Washington Schools of Medicine and
Nursing*)

James Brewer, M.D., Ph.D. (UC
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BrightFocus Alzheimer's
Disease Research

Christopher M. Callahan, MD
(Indiana University Center for
Aging Research*)

Caregiver Action Network

Center for Elder Care and
Advanced Illness, Altarum Institute

Center for Alzheimer Research
and Treatment, Harvard
Medical School

Center for BrainHealth at
The University of Texas at Dallas

Sandra Bond Chapman, PhD
(Center for BrainHealth at
The University of Texas at Dallas*)

ClergyAgainstAlzheimer's

Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Cognition Therapeutics

CorTechs Labs

Jeffrey Cummings, MD,
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Darrell K. Royal Fund for
Alzheimer's Research

Dementia Alliance International

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of Minnesota*)

Geoffrey Beene Foundation
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Georgetown University Medical Center
Memory Disorders Program

Georgia Institute on Aging

Gerontological Society of America

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Lisa P. Gwyther, MSW, LCSW
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David Holtzman, MD
(Washington University School of
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Home Instead Senior Care

Indiana University Center for
Aging Research

Janssen R&D

Johns Hopkins School of Nursing
Center for Innovative Care in Aging

Katherine S. Judge PhD (Cleveland
State University*)

Keep Memory Alive

Walter A. Kukull, PhD (School of Public
Health, University of Washington*)

LatinosAgainstAlzheimer's

Lewy Body Dementia Association
 Linked Senior, Inc
 LuMind Research Down
 Syndrome Foundation
 Mary Mittelman, DrPH (New
 York University Medical Center*)
 David G. Morgan, PhD (USF
 Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute*)
 Mount Sinai Center for Cognitive
 Health
 National Alliance for Caregiving
 National Asian Pacific Center on Aging
 National Certification Council
 for Activity Professionals
 National Council for Behavioral Health
 National Down Syndrome Society
 National Hispanic Council On
 Aging (NHCOA)
 National Task Group on
 Intellectual Disabilities and
 Dementia Practices
 Neurocern
 Neurotechnology Industry Organization
 New York Academy of Sciences
 NFL Neurological Center
 Thomas O. Obisesan, MD, MPH
 (Howard University Hospital*)
 OWL-The Voice of Women 40+
 Pat Summitt Foundation
 Planetree
 Presence Care Project

Prevent Alzheimer's Disease 2020
 ResearchersAgainstAlzheimer's
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 Second Wind Dreams, Inc./
 Virtual Dementia Tour
 Reisa A. Sperling, MD, MMSc (Center
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 Rudolph Tanzi, PhD (Department of
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 School*)
 The Association for Frontotemporal
 Degeneration
 The Eden Alternative
 The Evangelical Lutheran
 Good Samaritan Society
 Geoffrey Tremont, Ph.D., ABPP-
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 UsAgainstAlzheimer's, LEAD Coalition
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 USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute
 Volunteers of America
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 California San Francisco*)
 Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute
 WomenAgainstAlzheimer's

** 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/national-plan-address-alzheimer's-disease-2015-update>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.congress.gov/114/crpt/srpt74/CRPT-114srpt74.pdf> *"NIH-funded research is the only way to manage this disease in the future. Therefore, the Committee recommendation includes an increase of approximately \$350,000,000 for the National Institute on Aging, the NIH Institute with the primary responsibility for preventing, treating, and curing Alzheimer's disease."*

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers/bypass-budget-fy2017>

^{iv} <http://www.alz.org/trajectory>

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

^{vi} <http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMsa1204629>

^{vii} http://www.alz.org/downloads/facts_figures_2014.pdf

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

^{ix} <http://www.nhcoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/NHCOA-Alzheimers-Executive-Summary.pdf> and http://www.usagainstalzheimers.org/sites/all/themes/alzheimers_networks/files/LatinosAgainstAlzheimers_Issue_Brief.pdf

^x http://aadmd.org/sites/default/files/NTG_Thinker_Report.pdf

^{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 home and residential care providers, 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 disease, 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.