



April 26, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education

The Honorable John Hoeven  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Agriculture & FDA

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Agriculture & FDA

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies

***by electronic delivery***

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Hoeven and Ranking Member Merkley, Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Shaheen:

We sincerely thank you for recognizing and decisively responding to the challenges of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia (including vascular, Lewy body dementia and frontotemporal degeneration) by passing the Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) appropriations with a historic funding increase for Alzheimer's research. We applaud your continued determination to seize the enormous opportunities for America if we invest in the science, care, and support required to overcome these challenges and for recognizing the consequences if we fail to act. Doing so is a national priority, an economic and budgetary necessity, a health and moral imperative.

As you work to construct Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) appropriations bills, we respectfully encourage you to continue the momentum toward the National Alzheimer's Plan goals and your own commitment to advancing science, care, and support. **Specifically, we request that the FY20 appropriations bills include at least the following minimum increases:**

- a **\$350 million increase for National Institutes of Health (NIH) research on Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia to accelerate progress as articulated in the Bypass Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2020**
- a **\$500 million increase for aging research across the NIH, in addition to the funding for dementia-specific research**, to ensure that the NIH has the resources to address the many other age-related chronic diseases that affect people with dementia
- a **\$2.5 billion increase for the NIH, including funds from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act for targeted initiatives**
- a **\$418 million increase for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), in addition to funds included in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act for targeted initiatives**
- a **12% increase for Older Americans Act (OAA) services including, but not limited to:**
  - a **\$21.75 million increase for the OAA Title III E National Family Caregiver Support Program**
  - a **\$59.4 million increase for the OAA Title III C-1 Congregate Meals Program**
  - a **\$30.2 million increase for the III C-2 Home-Delivered Meals Program**
  - a **\$5 million increase for the OAA Title IV Falls Prevention Program**
- a **\$900,000 increase for the Lifespan Respite Care Program**
- a **\$6.5 million increase for the Alzheimer’s Disease Program Initiative**
- a **\$3 million increase for the DoJ Missing Alzheimer’s Disease Alert Program**
- **\$20 million in new funds for the CDC to implement the BOLD Act**

There are few more compelling or complex issues to confront our aging society, now and over the coming decades, than Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia. These neurodegenerative conditions impose enormous costs to our nation’s health, prosperity, and social fabric, costs that are skyrocketing.<sup>i</sup> Based on the National Institute on Aging’s Health and Retirement Study (HRS), we know that the health system costs of caring for people with dementia in the United States are comparable to, and perhaps greater than, those for heart disease and cancer.<sup>ii</sup> A recent analysis of HRS data revealed that average per-person health care spending in the last five years of life for people with dementia was more than \$250,000 -- 57 percent greater than costs associated with death from other diseases including cancer and heart disease.<sup>iii</sup>

Currently, more than 5.8 million Americans are living with dementia at an annual cost to our economy exceeding \$290 billion.<sup>iv</sup> An estimated 16 million Americans provide unpaid care for someone with dementia, resulting in additional healthcare and economic costs for the family caregiver. Alzheimer’s disease contributes to the deaths of approximately

500,000 Americans each year. Alzheimer's disease is the third leading cause of death in the United States<sup>v</sup> and — despite a powerful body of evidence for risk-reduction strategies,<sup>vi</sup> which is being expanded with significant NIH investments<sup>vii</sup> — the only one among the top 10 for which there is not yet a proven means of prevention, disease modification or cure.<sup>viii</sup>

Today, another person develops the disease every 65 seconds; by 2050, someone in the United States will develop the disease every 33 seconds. This explosive growth will cause Alzheimer's costs to increase from an estimated \$290 billion in 2019 to \$1.1 trillion in 2050 (in 2019 dollars).<sup>ix</sup> The federal government, through Medicare and Medicaid payments, shoulders an estimated 70 percent of all such direct care costs. These mounting costs threaten to bankrupt families, businesses and our health care system.

**We support a \$350 million increase for National Institutes of Health (NIH) research on Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia to accelerate progress as articulated in the Bypass Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2020,<sup>x</sup> and a \$500 million increase for aging research across the NIH in addition to the funding for dementia-specific research,** to ensure that the NIH has the resources to address the many other age-related chronic diseases that affect people with dementia. The choice before our nation is not whether to pay for dementia -- we are paying dearly. The question is whether we will emulate the investment strategies that have led to remarkable progress in fighting other leading causes of death such as cancer, HIV/AIDS and heart disease and achieve similar breakthroughs, or spend trillions to care for tens of millions of people. A modernized and more robust research portfolio can help America prevent this catastrophe and move us closer to achieving our national goal of preventing and effectively treating dementia by 2025.<sup>xi</sup>

Due to leadership and direction from Congress, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) continues to increase prioritization of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. The publicly-appointed members of the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services have generated their most thoughtful and catalytic recommendations for the annual update to the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease. There is heightened focus on improving care for people with advanced dementia.<sup>xii</sup> The Food and Drug Administration is encouraging new research avenues and clarifying regulatory approval pathways.<sup>xiii</sup> Your appropriations committee and NIH have moved mountains to create additional resources, public-private partnerships, and a culture of urgency. Across the NIH, institutes are advancing promising research into Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia to: understand genetic risk factors; address health disparities among women, African Americans, Hispanics, and persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities; understand Down syndrome's relationship to Alzheimer's disease; pursue cutting-edge trials aimed at preventing or substantially slowing disease progression by administering treatments much earlier in the disease process; and improve quality of life for people with dementia and their caregivers.<sup>xiv</sup> NIH and its partners are hard at work implementing the new *National Strategy for Recruitment and Participation in Alzheimer's and Related Dementias Clinical Research*,<sup>xv</sup> which will engage broad segments of the public in the Alzheimer's and related dementias research enterprise, with a particular focus on underrepresented communities, so that studies with an aim to better understand and eventually cure these disorders can successfully and more quickly enroll and retain individuals. In FY20, the National Institute on Aging (NIA) plans to increase its research

focus on Molecular Pathogenesis and Pathophysiology of Alzheimer's Disease; Diagnosis, Assessment, and Disease Monitoring; Translational Research and Clinical Interventions; Epidemiology; and Care and Caregiver Support.<sup>xvi</sup>

**We support the recommendation from the Ad Hoc Group on Medical Research to appropriate at least \$41.6 billion in FY20 for the NIH, including funds provided through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act for targeted initiatives.** This funding level, endorsed by well over 200 members of the U.S. House,<sup>xvii</sup> would continue a trajectory of steady and predictable annual increases – allowing for meaningful growth above inflation in the base budget that would expand NIH's capacity to support promising science in all disciplines – and would ensure that the Innovation Account supplements the agency's base budget, as intended, through dedicated funding for specific programs.

**We support the recommendation from the Alliance for a Stronger FDA to appropriate at least \$3.485 billion in FY20 for the FDA, including the President's request for \$418 million in additional spending on medical products and food safety programs.** Funding would strengthen FDA systems that guide and support agency decision-making and stimulate innovation for medical products, including improvements in drug and device manufacturing, advances in the use of real world evidence in medical product development, revisions to the regulatory framework for digital health technology, enhancements to research on rare diseases such as less common forms of dementia, and new systems that could speed the introduction of cost-saving generic drugs.

**We support the recommendation from the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) for a 12% increase for Older Americans Act services, a \$900,000 increase for the Lifespan Respite Care Program, and a \$6.5 million increase for the Alzheimer's Disease Program Initiative.** These investments are relatively small but crucial complements to vastly larger Medicaid and Medicare expenditures to protect and promote the wellbeing of people living with dementia and their caregivers. As urgently as resources are needed to enable scientific breakthroughs, the millions of Americans currently living with dementia and their family caregivers deserve strengthened commitments to programs to protect and enhance their quality of life. The World Health Organization has noted that dementia is among the leading causes of disability and dependence among older people.<sup>xviii</sup> Federal programs and initiatives have a vital role in helping people receive a diagnosis so they know what they are facing, can begin disability and care planning processes, maintain independence as long as possible, and – for people with younger onset dementia – seek appropriate workplace accommodations. We commend your work in FY19 to protect and support the CDC Alzheimer's disease health promotion program, the Lifespan Respite Care program, the ACL Alzheimer's Disease Program Initiative, the National Family Caregiver Support Program, falls prevention programs, and congregate and home-delivered meals programs. We encourage you to provide substantial new funding in FY20 to sustain core Older Americans Act services and to develop and disseminate services instrumental to achieving the national plan's goals to enhance care quality, efficiency and expand supports.<sup>xix</sup> These programs provide essential respite, training, and support to help family caregivers meet the needs of persons living with dementia.

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) Alzheimer's Disease Program Initiative (ADPI) supports and promotes the development and expansion of dementia-capable home and community-based service long-term services and support systems in states

and communities. ADPI delivers cutting-edge programs that meet the needs of individuals and caregivers managing dementia. Part of those resources support ACL's National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center (NADRC) based at RTI International. NADRC provides technical assistance to ACL's grantees that build dementia-capable systems to better identify and support people with dementia living in the community and improve training for dementia caregivers who suffer from considerable stress and depression. Many of the programs are geared towards at-risk dementia populations, such as those who live alone, those with disabilities and those who reside in rural, poor and minority communities. NADRC also produces dementia-related toolkits and provides technical assistance and webinars on Alzheimer's and other dementias to the public.<sup>xx</sup>

**We support a \$3 million increase -- \$5 million in total funding – for the Department of Justice (DoJ) Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program**, which provides grants for training and technology that help first responders locate people living with Alzheimer's disease or autism who wander become lost. The program saves lives, strengthens the capacity of search and rescue programs to respond to other community needs, and allows local first responders to conserve both time and money. The program's strong track record, along with rapid growth in the number of people living with dementia and the program's recent expansion to include services for people living with autism, merit and require substantial addition resources to better serve states and communities nationwide.

Until an effective treatment to prevent, slow or cure dementia comes to market, families and friends rely on these programs to protect their own well-being while helping persons with dementia to remain independent and in the community while delaying placement in institutional settings.

The CDC's Healthy Brain Initiative has launched its 2018-2023 Healthy Brain Aging Road Map to ramp up the nation's public health capacity in addressing dementia; the companion Road Map for Indian Country will launch soon.<sup>xxi</sup> The Road Map will advance strategies to reduce lifestyle risk factors, improve detection and diagnosis, strengthen community supports for people with dementia and their families, and redress health disparities.

In addition to needed increases in core funding for the CDC's long-standing and successful Healthy Brain Initiative, **we support a new \$20 million appropriation for CDC to implement the Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act (Pub. L. 115 – 406).**<sup>xxii</sup> Under the law, Congress has directed CDC to strengthen the public health infrastructure nationwide by implementing effective Alzheimer's interventions focused on public health priorities including increasing early detection and diagnosis, reducing modifiable risk, and preventing avoidable hospitalizations. Congress authorized \$100 million over five years – beginning in FY20 – so that CDC would have the necessary resources to establish Alzheimer's and Related Dementias Public Health Centers of Excellence, provide funding to state, local, and tribal public health departments, and increase data analysis and timely reporting.

Thank you for considering our views and for your commitment to overcoming Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. For any questions or additional information about this legislation or other policy issues, please contact Ian Kremer,

executive director of Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease (the LEAD Coalition),<sup>xxiii</sup>  
[ikremer@leadcoalition.org](mailto:ikremer@leadcoalition.org) or (571) 383-9916.

Sincerely,

ACADIA Pharmaceuticals	American Medical Women's Association
Accelerate Cure/Treatments for Alzheimer's Disease (ACT-AD) Coalition	American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP)
ActivistsAgainstAlzheimer's Network	Argentum   Expanding Senior Living
African American Network Against Alzheimer's	Association of Population Centers
Aging and Memory Disorder Programs, Howard University	Laura D. Baker, PhD (Wake Forest University Health Sciences*)
Aging Life Care Association®	Banner Alzheimer's Institute
Paul S. Aisen, MD (Keck School of Medicine of USC, Alzheimer's Therapeutic Research Institute*)	David M. Bass, PhD (Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging*)
Alliance for Aging Research	Baylor Scott & White Health
Alliance for Patient Access	Beating Alzheimer's by Embracing Science
Alzheimer's Alliance, Michigan State University	Andrew R. Bender, Ph.D. (Michigan State University*)
Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin	Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging
Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation	Biogen
Alzheimer's Foundation of America	Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)
Alzheimer's Los Angeles	B'nai B'rith International
Alzheimer's Mississippi	Soo Borson MD (Minnesota Brain Aging Research Collaborative*)
Alzheimer's New Jersey	Andrea Bozoki, MD, FAAN (Michigan State University*)
Alzheimer's Orange County	James Brewer, M.D., Ph.D. (UC San Diego and Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study*)
Alzheimer's San Diego	Bridge Builder Strategies
Alzheimer's Tennessee	BrightFocus Foundation
Alzheimer's Texas	Brookdale Senior Living Inc.
American Academy of Neurology	Broyles Foundation
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry	Christopher M. Callahan, MD (Indiana University Center for Aging Research*)
American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR)	Caregiver Action Network
American Geriatrics Society	

Caregiver Voices United	Faith United Against Alzheimer's Coalition
CaringKind, The Heart of Alzheimer's Caregiving	Fujirebio
Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment, Harvard Medical School	Sam Gandy, MD, PhD (Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*)
Center for BrainHealth at The University of Texas at Dallas	Joseph E. Gaugler, PhD (School of Public Health, University of Minnesota*)
Center to Advance Palliative Care	Daniel R. George, Ph.D, M.Sc (Penn State College of Medicine*)
Sandra Bond Chapman, PhD (Center for BrainHealth at The University of Texas at Dallas*)	Georgetown University Medical Center Memory Disorders Program
Joshua Chodosh, MD, MSHS, FACP (New York University*)	Gerontological Society of America
ClergyAgainstAlzheimer's Network	Laura Gillen, MS (McDaniel College*)
Cleveland Clinic Foundation	G. Peter Gliebus, MD (Drexel University, College of Medicine*)
Coalition of Wisconsin Aging and Health Groups	Global Alzheimer's Platform Foundation
Cognition Therapeutics	Global Coalition on Aging
Cognitive Dynamics Foundation	Lisa P. Gwyther, MSW, LCSW (Duke University Medical Center*)
Suzanne Craft, PhD (Wake Forest School of Medicine*)	David P Hoffman DPS CCE (Maria College*)
Critical Path for Alzheimer's Disease (CPAD)	David M. Holtzman, MD (Washington University School of Medicine, Department of Neurology*)
Jeffrey Cummings, MD, ScD (Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health*)	Home Instead Senior Care
Cure Alzheimer's Fund	Huffington Center on Aging, Baylor College of Medicine
Darrell K. Royal Fund for Alzheimer's Research	Huntington's Disease Society of America
Walter Dawson, Dphil (Portland State University*)	Intergrace Institute
Dementia Alliance International	Janssen R&D
Department of Neurology, Washington University School of Medicine	Kathy Jedrzewski, PhD (University of Pennsylvania*)
Duke (Alzheimer's) Family Support Program	The Jewish Federations of North America
Eisai Co., Ltd.	Johns Hopkins Memory and Alzheimer's Treatment Center
Gary Epstein-Lubow, MD (Alpert Medical School of Brown University*)	Katherine S. Judge, PhD (Cleveland State University*)
	Nicholas Kanaan, PhD (Michigan State University*)

Jason Karlawish, MD (Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania\*)

Keck School of Medicine of USC, Alzheimer's Therapeutic Research Institute

Keep Memory Alive

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

Latino Alzheimer's and Memory Disorders Alliance

LatinosAgainstAlzheimer's

Layton Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Center, Oregon Health & Science University

LeadingAge

Lewy Body Dementia Association

Life Molecular Imaging

Allison Lindauer, PhD, NP (Layton Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Center, Oregon Health & Science University\*)

Linked Senior, Inc

Livpact Inc.

Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health

LuMind IDSC Foundation

Lundbeck

Kostas Lyketsos, M.D., M.H.S. (Johns Hopkins Memory and Alzheimer's Treatment Center\*)

Tabassum Majid, PhD (The Erickson School of Aging, University of Maryland Baltimore County\*)

Yannick Marchalant, Ph.D. (Central Michigan University\*)

David X. Marquez, PhD (Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition, University of Illinois at Chicago\*)

Medicare Rights Center

Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Minnesota Brain Aging Research Collaborative

Mary Mittelman, DrPH (New York University Medical Center\*)

Vincent Mor, PhD (Brown University, School of Public Health\*)

David G. Morgan, PhD (Michigan State University\*)

Darby Morhardt, PhD, LCSW (Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine\*)

Mount Sinai Center for Cognitive Health

National Alliance for Caregiving (Mike Wittke)

National Asian Pacific Center on Aging

National Association of Activity Professionals

National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

National Association of Counties (NACo)

National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs (NASOP)

National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities

National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc. (NCBA)

National Certification Council for Activity Professionals

National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care

National Council for Behavioral Health

National Down Syndrome Society

National Hispanic Council On Aging (NHCOA)

National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices

NFL Neurological Center

NYU Alzheimer's Disease Center

NYU Langone Center on Cognitive Neurology	Rudolph Tanzi, PhD (Department of Neurology, MGH/Harvard Medical School*)
NYU Langone Health	
Noah Homes	The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration
Thomas O. Obisesan, MD, MPH (Howard University Hospital*)	The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society
The Ohio Council for Cognitive Health	The Youth Movement Against Alzheimer's
Pat Summitt Foundation	
Planetree International, Inc.	Geoffrey Tremont, Ph.D., ABPP-CN (Alpert Medical School of Brown University*)
Population Association of America	
Daniel C. Potts, MD, FAAN (University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences*)	R. Scott Turner, MD, PhD (Georgetown University Memory Disorders Program*)
Prevent Alzheimer's Disease 2020	UsAgainstAlzheimer's, LEAD Coalition co-convener
Peter Reed, PhD (Sanford Center for Aging, University of Nevada Reno*)	USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute, University of South Florida
Eric Reiman, MD (Banner Alzheimer's Institute*)	VeteransAgainstAlzheimer's
ResearchersAgainstAlzheimer's	Anand Viswanathan, MD, PhD (Massachusetts General Hospital and Alzheimer's Disease Research Center*)
David B. Reuben, MD (David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA*)	
RTI International	Stella L. Volpe, PhD (Drexel University, Department of Nutrition Sciences*)
Quincy Miles Samus, PhD, MS (Johns Hopkins School of Medicine*)	Volunteers of America, LEAD Coalition co-convener
Second Wind Dreams, Inc./ Virtual Dementia Tour	Carol J. Whitlatch, PhD (Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging*)
Amanda G. Smith, M.D. (USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute*)	Nancy Wilson, MA LCSW (Baylor College of Medicine*)
Reisa A. Sperling, MD, MMSc (Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment, Harvard Medical School*)	WomenAgainstAlzheimer's Women's Brain Health Initiative Women's Brain Project

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

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMsa1204629>

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMsa1204629>

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- v <http://www.neurology.org/content/early/2014/03/05/WNL.0000000000000240>
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- xi <https://aspe.hhs.gov/system/files/pdf/102526/NatIPlan2012%20with%20Note.pdf>
- xii <https://aspe.hhs.gov/national-research-summit-care-services-and-supports-persons-dementia-and-their-caregivers>
- xiii <https://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM596728.pdf>
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- xv <https://www.nia.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2018-10/alzheimers-disease-recruitment-strategy-final.pdf>
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- xvii <https://www.aamc.org/research/adhocgp/DCL/032819DCL.pdf>
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- xix <https://aspe.hhs.gov/system/files/pdf/102526/NatIPlan2012%20with%20Note.pdf>
- xx <https://nadrc.acl.gov>
- xxi <https://www.cdc.gov/aging/healthybrain/roadmap.htm>
- xxii <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2076>
- xxiii <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.