



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and  
Education  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and  
Education  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

Alzheimer's disease is an urgent and growing public health crisis affecting millions of families across our nation. In 2018, Congress acted decisively to address this important issue through the passage of the Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act (P.L. 115-406). This strong bipartisan law authorizes \$100 million over five years for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to build a robust Alzheimer's and other dementias public health infrastructure across the country. We urge you to include \$20 million for the third year of BOLD's implementation at CDC in fiscal year (FY) 2022.

Between 2000 and 2017, the number of people dying from Alzheimer's increased by 145 percent while deaths from other major diseases have decreased significantly or remained approximately the same. While there are over 6 million Americans currently living with the disease, without significant action, that number will soar to nearly 13 million by 2050. As scientists continue to search for a way to cure or slow the progression of Alzheimer's through medical research, public health plays an important role in promoting cognitive function and reducing the risk of cognitive decline. Investing in a nationwide Alzheimer's public health response will help create population-level improvements, achieve a higher quality of life for those living with the disease and their caregivers, and reduce associated costs.

The BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act provides this crucial investment by establishing Alzheimer's and Related Dementias Public Health Centers of Excellence across the country and funding state, local, and tribal public health departments to increase early detection and diagnosis, reduce risk, prevent avoidable hospitalizations, reduce health disparities, support the needs of caregivers, and support care planning for people living with the disease. These important public health actions can allow individuals with Alzheimer's to live in their homes longer and delay costly long-term nursing home care. The law also aims to increase the analysis and timely reporting of data. This data is critical to identifying opportunities for public health

interventions, helping stakeholders track progress in the public health response, and enabling state and federal policymakers to make informed decisions when developing plans and policies.

We were glad to see CDC receive \$10 million in FY20 and \$15 million in FY21 for the first two years of BOLD's implementation. This has allowed CDC to award funding to three Public Health Centers of Excellence and 16 public health departments across the country. While these are important steps forward, we ask that you appropriate the full \$20 million authorized for FY22 in order to have the meaningful impact that Congress intended and address Alzheimer's as a growing public health crisis.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important bipartisan request to fully fund BOLD's third year of implementation within the CDC.

Sincerely,



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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



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Brett Guthrie  
Member of Congress



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Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



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Chris Smith  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

**Also Submitted by:**

/s/

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.

/s/

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Cindy Axne

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