Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 19, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services and Education Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services and Education Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

We thank you for your leadership in supporting robust funding for Alzheimer's research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We write to request a $289 million increase in funding for Alzheimer's research at NIH in FY 2022, as compared to the FY 2021 level.

Alzheimer's has reached crisis proportions in the United States. It was the sixth leading cause of death in the United States prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and while promising scientific research is ongoing, there is still no effective treatment, no means of prevention, and no method for slowing the progression of Alzheimer's. An estimated 6.2 million Americans age 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's in 2021, and that number is expected to increase exponentially as the baby boom generation ages. By 2050, the number of people age 65 and older with Alzheimer's may grow to a projected 12.7 million, in the absence of medical breakthroughs that would prevent, slow, or cure the disease. Furthermore, in 2021, Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost our nation an estimated $355 billion in health care and long-term care expenses, including $239 billion in Medicare and Medicaid payments. At the current rate, the cost of care for these tragic conditions will reach $1.1 trillion by 2050.

Our nation is at a crossroads. We must act now to change the trajectory of this disease. The National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease calls for a cure or an effective treatment for Alzheimer's by the year 2025. Reaching this goal will require a significant increase in federal funding for Alzheimer's research.

We therefore urge you to provide a $289 million increase in funding for Alzheimer's research for a total appropriation of approximately $3.4 billion in FY 2022 for Alzheimer's Disease including Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementias (AD/ADRD). We thank you for your attention to our concerns, and we look forward to working with you to invest in research that will lead to a cure for this devastating disease.

Sincerely,

Maxine Waters

Christopher H. Smith

Alzheimer's Research at NIH, FY 2022
List of Signatories
April 19, 2021

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