

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As strong supporters of Alzheimer's research and health equity, we respectfully write to request \$60 million for initiatives that increase the participation of underrepresented populations in research and clinical trials under the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the Fiscal Year 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

As of 2022, more than 6.5 million Americans were living with Alzheimer's disease, representing 10.7% of the population over the age of 65. Although Alzheimer's and other dementia disproportionately affect non-white communities, these communities continue to be underrepresented in Alzheimer's disease clinical trials. Black Americans are about twice as likely to develop the disease, yet represent only 5% of all clinical trial participants. Hispanic Americans are nearly one and a half times more likely to develop Alzheimer's, but only represent around 1% of clinical trial participants. Available data suggests that participation of Native Americans and Asian Americans in clinical trials is also very low, leading to an inadequate representation of the total population living with Alzheimer's across the country.

The underrepresentation of these populations not only hinders the ability of researchers to understand the extent of these health disparities, but also restricts their knowledge of how an approved therapy or diagnostic may affect the population most in need of the treatment. According to the CDC, the number of Americans projected to be diagnosed with Alzheimer's will nearly triple to 14 million by the year 2060. Therefore, there is an urgent need for current and future research to include a higher proportion of non-white Americans to ensure that every American can benefit from scientific advances in this field.

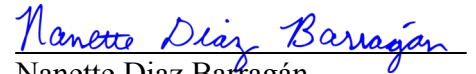
We are grateful to you both that the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328) included language to help increase the participation of underrepresented populations in Alzheimer's and other dementia clinical trials. While this was a great first step, there is limited funding available to expand access to clinical trials and research for non-white Alzheimer's patients. Increased funding for these initiatives will allow the NIH to work directly with stakeholders to promote participation in clinical trials within underrepresented populations and reduce the burden of participating. These efforts will include expanding community engagement and outreach to these populations, incentivizing trial locations in areas of unmet need, and utilizing technology like remote patient monitoring, to improve clinical trial participation and retention.

We appreciate your consideration of our request to provide \$60 million to help increase the participation of underrepresented populations in Alzheimer's and other dementia clinical trials in FY 2024.

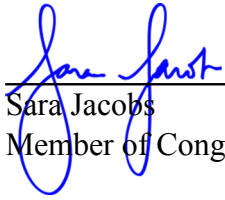
Sincerely,



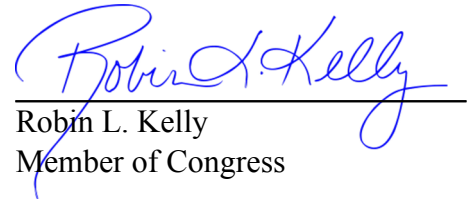
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress



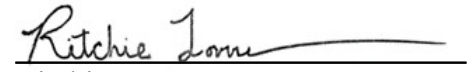
Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



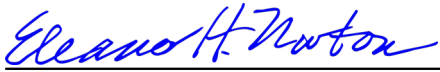
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



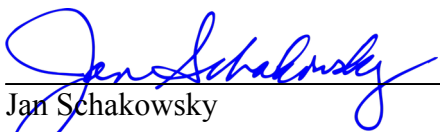
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



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Ann McLane Kuster
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André Carson

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