

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 19, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole  
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 Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We thank you for your leadership in supporting Alzheimer's research and for your continued efforts to ensure that a \$414 million increase in funding for Alzheimer's research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is finalized in fiscal year 2018. We write to request a \$425 million increase in funding for Alzheimer's research at NIH in FY 2019, as compared to the level included in the FY 2018 Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.

Alzheimer's is a tragic disease affecting millions of Americans, and it has reached crisis proportions. There is no effective treatment, no means of prevention, and no method for slowing the progression of the disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), five million Americans were living with Alzheimer's disease in the year 2013. This number is expected to almost triple to 14 million by the year 2050.

Alzheimer's is the 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States. In 2017, the direct cost of care for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias was estimated to be \$259 billion, with 67 percent of those costs paid for by Medicare or Medicaid. Alzheimer's disease and related dementias will increase exponentially as the baby boom generation ages. At the current rate, the cost of Alzheimer's will reach \$1.1 trillion dollars in 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 \$425 million increase in funding for Alzheimer's research for a total appropriation of \$2.23 billion in FY 2019 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

  
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[Signature]

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**Alzheimer's Research at NIH, FY 2019**  
**List of Signatories**  
**March 19, 2018**

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