



Representative Chris Smith
United States House of Representatives
2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2014

Dear Representative Smith:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association and its nationwide network of advocates, thank you for your continued leadership on issues and legislation important to Americans with Alzheimer's and their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association proudly endorses your most recent Alzheimer's resolution, H. Res. 489, which expresses the sense of Congress to facilitate and promote a robust response to the global crisis of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

The Alzheimer's Association is the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease and other dementias through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's.

As one of our nation's strongest voices on behalf of Americans living with Alzheimer's, you know that more than 5 million Americans are living with the disease, and without significant action, as many as 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's by 2050. A recent study funded by the National Institutes of Health and published in the New England Journal of Medicine further confirmed that Alzheimer's disease is the most expensive disease in America. Additionally, as the baby boomer generation ages, one in eight will develop Alzheimer's. This explosive growth will cause Alzheimer's costs to Medicare and Medicaid to increase from \$142 billion today to more than \$800 billion in 2050 (in today's dollars) and threatens to bankrupt families, businesses and our health care system. Unfortunately, our work is only growing more urgent.

The first-ever G8 Dementia Summit was the start of a process aimed at putting dementia at the top of the global health agenda and the top of the agendas of health leaders from around the world. The Alzheimer's Association was proud to take part in both G8 Dementia Summit hearings called by the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, and we applaud you for your efforts in calling those hearings and with this resolution.

The Alzheimer's Association deeply appreciates your continued leadership on behalf of all American's living with Alzheimer's. If you have any questions about this or any other legislation, please contact Rachel Conant, Director of Federal Affairs, at rconant@alz.org or at 202.638.7121.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Egge", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Egge
Vice President, Public Policy