

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

March 26, 2015

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 write to request a \$200 million increase in funding for Alzheimer's research at the National Institutes of Health in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2016.

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, nor even a 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.

The costs associated with Alzheimer's disease are also growing at an unsustainable rate. A recent RAND study of adults over the age of 70 found that the total economic cost of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia in 2010 was estimated to be \$109 billion for direct care alone. That is higher than the cost of both heart disease and cancer. Furthermore, when the cost of informal care is included, the total costs rise to between \$159 billion and \$215 billion. These costs will rise exponentially as the baby boom generation ages and the number of people living with Alzheimer's increases.

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 \$200 million increase in funding for Alzheimer's research for a total appropriation of \$787 million in fiscal year 2016. 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  
Co-Chair, Congressional Task  
Force on Alzheimer's Disease



Christopher H. Smith  
Co-Chair, Congressional Task  
Force on Alzheimer's Disease



John Garamendi  
Member, Congressional Task  
Force on Alzheimer's Disease

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Steve Lachy

Loretta Sanchez

Linda J. Sanchez

Mike J. Jorgensen

**Alzheimer's Research at NIH, FY 2016**

**List of Signatories**

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