

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 12, 2013

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
United States Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

On behalf of the more than 5 million Americans suffering from Alzheimer's and their more than 15 million family caregivers, we are writing to urge that as you prepare the second National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease, you include specific milestones and measures of progress for how we, as a nation, are to achieve the national goal of stopping and preventing Alzheimer's disease by 2025 as well as the other objectives of the Plan.

The United States took a momentous step forward in May of last year in issuing, pursuant to a law enacted unanimously by Congress, our first National Plan to Address Alzheimer's and in setting a specific and time-bound goal of stopping this disease. We commend this bold and transformative goal and strongly support the National Plan's other goals of enhancing care quality and efficiency and expanding long term supports for people with Alzheimer's and their families. Alzheimer's disease is a grave and growing threat to our public health, fiscal sustainability and economic growth which, if not addressed quickly, will become an all-out crisis. The more than 5 million Americans with Alzheimer's today are estimated to cost the nation \$200 billion annually, 70 percent or \$140 billion is shouldered by American taxpayers through Medicare and Medicaid. By the mid-century mark, more than 10 million baby boomers will die of causes attributable to Alzheimer's, the number of individuals with the disease will more than triple, and the annual cost to American families and taxpayers will exceed \$1 trillion.

Preventing and treating Alzheimer's disease by 2025 – a mere 12 years from today – will not be easy. While recent clinical trial setbacks demonstrate the challenge we face, new research findings offer real hope, and industry and academic investments in new prevention trials offer reasons for optimism. When confronted with daunting challenges in the past – such as wars, disease, and the space race – the United States has never backed down. Rather, we committed ourselves as one nation to the cause and worked ambitious and clear plans to get the job done. The tsunami that is Alzheimer's is an opportunity for our nation to once again rise to this challenge, set clear national goals and milestones, and defeat Alzheimer's disease.

While we strongly support the 2025 pursuit and the other goals of the plan, **we believe the next iteration must include a clear pathway – a set of milestones and measures of progress – to**

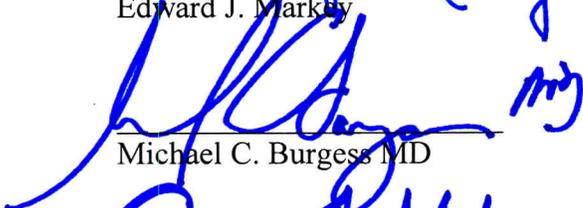
achieving these ambitious targets, and we urge that you include such a route in the annual report you deliver to Congress on the implementation of the Plan. The initial articulation of the plan took a step in this direction by laying out strategies and actions needed to achieve the goal, including a short-term implementation timeline. But to prevent and treat Alzheimer's by 2025 and to achieve the other goals of the Plan, the 2013 version of the Plan must include specific and concrete annual milestones and measures of progress that must be achieved to meet these goals, including the 2025 Goal. Such milestones will offer clear guidance to federal and non-federal stakeholders so all parties know what actions must be taken, by whom, and by when, and should be updated each and every year. Absent such milestones and measures of progress, the accountability we all share for the 2025 goal cannot be put in place, making the goals of the Plan at risk of becoming hollow aspirations.

Preventing and treating Alzheimer's disease by 2025 is a bold and ambitious national goal, but a goal we can achieve. By including specific milestones in the next iteration of the plan, you will help us take a significant step forward to meeting the 2025 goal. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact us at any time.

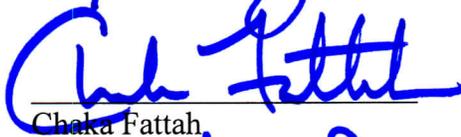
Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey

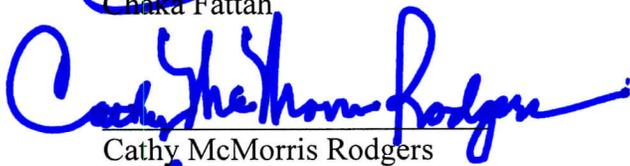

Chris Smith

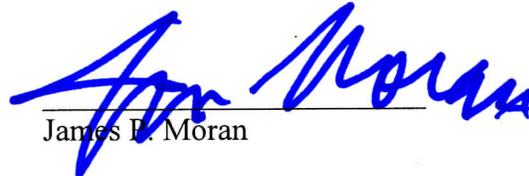

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