

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 2015

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Cole and Ranking Members Lowey and DeLauro:

As Co-Chairs and members of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, we applaud your leadership in prioritizing funding for Alzheimer's research during these difficult budgetary times. In March, we led a multi-member letter requesting an increase in funding for Alzheimer's research at NIH for FY2016, and were pleased to see that the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill passed by the Committee included \$886 million.

Investing in research for Alzheimer's is critical to reversing the trajectory of this public health crisis, as well as its impact on our budgets and the economy. More than 5 million Americans currently suffer from this debilitating illness, at an expense of \$154 billion annually in Medicare and Medicaid costs alone. By 2050, care of Alzheimer's patients could reach \$765 billion in Medicare, Medicaid and other expenses. With out of pocket and other costs taken into account, the number totals one trillion.

If we are to meet the goal of the National Alzheimer's Project Act, which is to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's by 2025, we must expand our investment in high-impact research at NIH. The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education approved a budget for FY 2016 that calls for an additional \$350 million in funding for Alzheimer's-focused research for a total of \$937 million.

As the House and Senate negotiate a final spending package for the upcoming fiscal year, we urge you to support an appropriation of \$937 million, or at a minimum, seek to protect the \$886 million investment in research included in the House bill that will help save lives and mitigate the impact of Alzheimer's on patients, families, and caregivers.

Sincerely,



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



Maxine Waters
Co-Chair, Congressional Task
Force on Alzheimer's Disease



Chaka Fattah
Co-Chair, Congressional Task
Force on Alzheimer's Disease



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