

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

April 4, 2017

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable José Serrano
Ranking Member
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Serrano:

We urge you to provide \$2 million in the fiscal year 2018 CJS appropriations bill for the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program. This program helps local communities and law enforcement officials quickly find persons with Alzheimer's disease who wander away from their homes and reunite them with their families.

More than 5 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, and the majority of them live at home under the care of family and friends. According to the Alzheimer's Association, more than 60% of Alzheimer's patients are likely to wander away from home. Wanderers are vulnerable to dehydration, weather conditions, traffic hazards, and individuals who prey on seniors. It has been estimated that up to 50% of Alzheimer's patients who wander will become seriously injured or die if they are not found within 24 hours of their departure from home.

The Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program is a small, cost-effective program that provides grants to non-profit organizations to enable them to establish and operate initiatives to identify, locate and protect Alzheimer's patients who wander. This program protects the safety of thousands of Americans affected by Alzheimer's disease and brings peace-of-mind to their families. It also saves time for law enforcement officials and allows them to focus on other security concerns.

We therefore urge you to provide \$2 million for the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program in fiscal year 2018. Alzheimer's patients and their families are counting on your support.

Sincerely,



Maxine Waters



Christopher H. Smith



John Garamendi

Niki Longas



Grant. Nyeletso



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Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, FY 2018
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April 4, 2017

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