

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

April 6, 2017

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 \$414 million increase in funding for Alzheimer's research at the National Institutes of Health in fiscal year 2018, as compared to the level included in the FY 2017 Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.

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, and no 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.

Alzheimer's is the 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States. In 2017, the direct cost of care for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias is expected to hit \$259 billion, with 67 percent of those costs paid for by Medicare or Medicaid. Alzheimer's disease and related dementias will increase exponentially as the baby boom generation ages. At the current rate, the cost of Alzheimer's will reach \$1.1 trillion dollars in 2050.

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 \$414 million increase in funding for Alzheimer's research for a total appropriation of \$1.805 billion in FY 2018 for Alzheimer's Disease including Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementias (AD/ADRD). 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



Christopher H. Smith



John Garamendi



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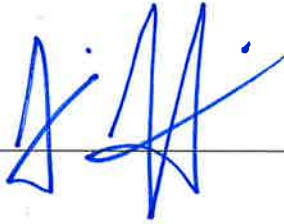
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Alzheimer's Research at NIH, FY 2018



Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Lisa Blunt Rochester



**Alzheimer's Research at NIH, FY 2018**

**List of Signatories**

**April 6, 2017**

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