

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

March 23, 2016

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

The Honorable Mike Honda  
Acting Ranking Member  
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee  
Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Acting Ranking Member Honda:

We urge you to provide \$2 million in the fiscal year 2017 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 away from home. This program has funded a variety of innovative projects, including a national registry of Alzheimer's patients who are at risk of wandering and tracking systems for local law enforcement officials who are searching for missing patients. 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 2017. Alzheimer's patients and their families are counting on your support.

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

Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, FY 2017

Luis Frankel

Raúl M. Hijalva

Alan Smith

Donna F. Edwards

Ann King

Charles J. Gyle

Kam Barron

Juan Vargas

Jord Polis

Kristen Simona

Katherine M. Clark

Steve Cole

Red Deutch

Ryn Castle

Frederica S. Wilson

Ann McFarlane Fuster

Ted W. Linn

Jim De

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Wm H. ...

David ...

Donis O. Matsui

Charles B. ...

Linda J. Sanchez

Jan ...

Jackie Speier

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Danny di ...

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Alveta P. Clarke

Daniel Lipsinski

Neal E. Conly

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Edwin Watson Coleman

Joyce Beasley  
Latha Sandy

[Signature]

Shirley Jackson

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John Lewis

Stacy E. Plaskett

Kathleen U. Pien

Matthew A. Cottrell

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**Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, FY 2017**  
**List of Signatories**  
**March 23, 2016**

*Karen Bass*  
*Joyce Beatty*  
*Brendan F. Boyle*  
*André Carson*  
*Matt Cartwright*  
*Katherine Clark*  
*Yvette D. Clarke*  
*Steve Cohen*  
*Gerald E. Connolly*  
**Ryan A. Costello**  
*Danny K. Davis*  
*John K. Delaney*  
*Ted Deutch*  
*Donna F. Edwards*  
*Lois Frankel*  
*John Garamendi*  
*Raúl M. Grijalva*  
*Sheila Jackson Lee*  
*William R. Keating*  
*Ann McLane Kuster*  
*John Lewis*  
*Ted Lieu*  
*Daniel W. Lipinski*

*Stephen F. Lynch*  
*Sean Patrick Maloney*  
*Doris Matsui*  
*Gwen Moore*  
*Eleanor Holmes Norton*  
*Scott Peters*  
*Stacey E. Plaskett*  
*Jared Polis*  
*Charles B. Rangel*  
*Kathleen M. Rice*  
*Loretta Sanchez*  
*Linda T. Sánchez*  
*Jan Schakowsky*  
*Kyrsten Sinema*  
*Albio Sires*  
*Adam Smith*  
**Christopher H. Smith**  
*Jackie Speier*  
*Juan Vargas*  
*Maxine Waters*  
*Bonnie Watson Coleman*  
*Frederica S. Wilson*