

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 14, 2022

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chairman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House of Representatives  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Pallone and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers,

Thank you for your continued leadership on issues and legislation important to Americans living with Alzheimer's and other dementias, and their caregivers. We write today to ask that you consider two important bipartisan bills as you plan for the next Committee markup: **the NAPA Reauthorization Act (H.R. 7775/ S. 4203) and Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act (H.R. 7773/S. 4202)**. Timely passage of these bills would ensure the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has the certainty and stability to continue both immediate and long-term planning for a nationwide approach to Alzheimer's and other dementia.

The burden of Alzheimer's on individuals and families continues to grow. Today, more than 6 million Americans aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's dementia and by mid-century, this number is expected to nearly double. Total payments for all individuals living with this disease are estimated at \$321 billion (not including unpaid caregiving). Medicare and Medicaid are expected to cover \$206 billion, or 64 percent of the total health care and long-term care payments for people with Alzheimer's or other dementias. Total payments for health care costs, including hospice care, for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias are projected to increase to nearly \$1 trillion by 2050. These mounting costs threaten to bankrupt families, businesses, and our health care system. Unfortunately, our work is only growing more urgent.

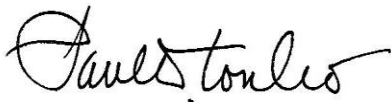
Congress enacted the National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA)(P.L. 111-375) in 2011, leading to the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease, a national strategic plan to address the rapidly escalating Alzheimer's crisis. The National Plan focuses on promoting rapid research on Alzheimer's and the improvement in the delivery of clinical care and services for people living with Alzheimer's and their families. In addition to the creation of the National Plan, NAPA also directed HHS to create and convene the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services, which includes a combination of federal agency representatives and non-federal members, to oversee implementation of the National Plan. Congress then enacted the Alzheimer's Accountability Act in 2014, which ensures Congress hears directly from the scientists at National Institutes of Health (NIH) on how much research funding is necessary for NIH to fully implement

NAPA's research goals. As a result of these efforts, Alzheimer's NIH research funding has increased more than seven-fold in the last decade.

The **bipartisan NAPA Reauthorization Act (H.R. 7775/ S. 4203)** would reauthorize NAPA through 2035 and modernize the law to reflect strides that have been made to understand the disease, such as including a new focus on promoting healthy aging, addressing health disparities and reducing risk factors. The **bipartisan Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act (H.R. 7773/S. 4202)** would continue the requirement for NIH to submit an Alzheimer's professional judgment budget to Congress outlining the annual funds needed to make progress against the disease. We urge you to act on these important bipartisan bills this fall, so that they may be enacted in the 117th Congress. Doing so will provide HHS the certainty and stability to continue a strong nationwide approach to Alzheimer's and other dementia.

Thank you for your attention to these bipartisan bills. We deeply appreciate your continued leadership on issues important to the millions of Americans living with Alzheimer's and other dementia.

Sincerely,



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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



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Chris Smith  
Member of Congress