March 24, 2023

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
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 Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We thank you for your leadership in supporting robust funding for Alzheimer’s research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We write to request a $321 million increase in funding for Alzheimer’s research at NIH in FY 2024, as compared to the FY 2023 level of more than $3.7 billion.

Alzheimer’s has reached crisis proportions in the United States. It was the sixth leading cause of death in the United States prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and while promising scientific research is ongoing, there is still no effective treatment, no means of prevention, and no method for slowing the progression of Alzheimer’s. More than 6 million Americans age 65 and older are living with Alzheimer’s, and that number is expected to increase exponentially as the baby boom generation ages. By 2050, the number of people age 65 and older with Alzheimer’s may nearly double, in the absence of medical breakthroughs that would prevent, slow, or cure the disease. Furthermore, in 2022, Alzheimer’s and other dementias cost our nation an estimated $321 billion in health care and long-term care expenses, including $206 billion in Medicare and Medicaid payments. At the current rate, the cost of care for these tragic conditions will reach nearly $1 trillion by 2050.

Our nation is at a crossroads. We must act now to change the trajectory of this disease.

We therefore urge you to provide a $321 million increase in funding for Alzheimer’s research in FY 2024 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
Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

John Rose
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Mike Bost
Member of Congress

Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress

Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress

Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress

Anthony D'Esposito
Member of Congress
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Andy Kim
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress