

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 8, 2021

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
S. 128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
S. 128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy, Chair Murray, Vice Chairman Shelby, and Ranking Member Blunt:

As you work to assemble the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill, we urge you to continue to prioritize and build upon your commitments to Alzheimer's disease research and public health initiatives. We thank you for your continued commitment to increasing funding for Alzheimer's research and look forward to working with you given the tremendous human and economic costs of this devastating disease.

Alzheimer's disease and other dementias pose a grave threat to the health of our people and to the fiscal well-being of our nation's health programs. More than six million Americans are living with Alzheimer's in 2021, a number that is projected to increase to nearly 13 million by 2050. Alzheimer's is a debilitating and progressive disease. The impact of this disease almost always extends beyond just those diagnosed and impacts millions of family members, friends and caregivers whose lives are forever changed. Alzheimer's and other dementias also cost our nation an estimated \$355 billion a year, including \$239 billion in Medicare and Medicaid costs.

While the challenges posed by Alzheimer's are substantial, breakthroughs in science and therapies could help achieve the national goal of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer's disease by 2025. This benchmark was set in the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease authorized by the bipartisan National Alzheimer's Project Act (P.L. 111-375), which Congress passed unanimously in December 2010.

Achieving this goal will require both public and private sector support. In FY 2021, thanks to your work, Congress enacted a \$300 million increase for Alzheimer's research, bringing the country's total investment to \$3.1 billion. While we have achieved investments over the past decade, the need to accelerate Alzheimer's research to change the trajectory remains urgent, as the amount of meritorious Alzheimer's and dementia research far exceeds the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) current funding capacity. To that end, we urge you to continue making Alzheimer's disease research at the NIH a priority to achieve the 2025 goal set by the National Plan.

To ensure that our federal investment in biomedical research reaches families facing Alzheimer's, we request full funding for the bipartisan BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act, which the President signed into law in December 2018 (P.L. 115-406). Headed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), this law represents the beginning of a bold new era for treating Alzheimer's by applying a public health approach, bringing research to communities, reducing the risk of cognitive decline, and improving diagnosis and treatment of the disease. We appreciate the Subcommittee prioritizing this effort by allocating \$10 million in FY 2020 and \$15 million in FY 2021 for the first two years of BOLD's implementation. This has allowed CDC to award funding to three Public Health Centers of Excellence and 16 public health departments across the country. While these are important steps forward, we ask that you provide the full funding authorized by the law in order to have the meaningful impact that Congress intended and address Alzheimer's as a growing public health crisis.

Finally, to continue to provide direct services to individuals and families, we urge you to include appropriate support for Alzheimer's disease and dementia initiatives through the Administration for Community Living (ACL), particularly for the National Alzheimer's Call Center.

We understand the challenges you face in setting FY 2022 appropriations levels, and we appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



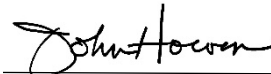
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



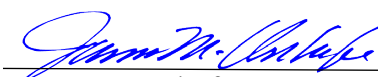
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John Hoeven
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Richard Blumenthal
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James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

/s/

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
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Robert P. Casey Jr.
United States Senator



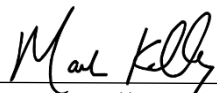
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Mazie Hirono
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Mark Kelly
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Dan Sullivan
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Todd Young
United States Senator

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Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



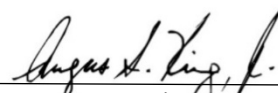
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/s/


Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Angus S. King Jr.
United States Senator




Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



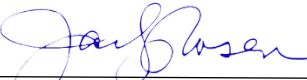
Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



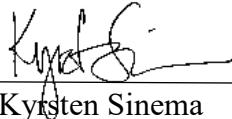
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Gary E. Peters
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

/s/

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



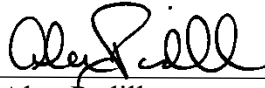
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Ben Ray Lujan
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Robert Menendez
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Alex Padilla
United States Senator

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Jack Reed
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Tina Smith
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