

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 11, 2018

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

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

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

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

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

As you work to assemble the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations, we urge you to continue to prioritize and build upon your commitments to Alzheimer's disease research and care initiatives. We thank you for your past support to increase funding for Alzheimer's research. Your continued attention to Alzheimer's will bolster and enhance recent legislative strides, like the EUREKA prize competition and other programs enhanced through the 21st Century Cures Act, to help stem the tide 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. Nearly 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's today, a number that is projected to increase to approximately 14 million by 2050. Alzheimer's and other dementias also cost our nation an estimated \$277 billion a year, including \$186 billion in costs to Medicare and Medicaid. Surely, we should do more for Alzheimer's given the tremendous human and economic costs of this devastating disease.

While the challenges posed by Alzheimer's are substantial, continued breakthroughs in science and therapy 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 (Public Law 111-375), which Congress passed unanimously in December 2010.



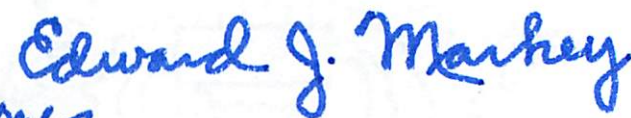
Achieving this goal will require both public and private sector support. In FY 2018, thanks to the good work of your Subcommittees, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) committed \$1.8 billion to Alzheimer's disease and dementia research, compared to just \$504 million in FY 2013. We have made tremendous improvement over the years; and yet, we still fall short of the levels leading experts estimate

will be needed to maximize our likelihood of achieving the 2025 goal of preventing and treating Alzheimer's. Moreover, the amount of meritorious Alzheimer's and dementia research far exceeds NIH's funding capacity. To that end, we urge you to continue making Alzheimer's disease research at the NIH a priority so that we can ramp up to the level necessary to achieve the 2025 goal set by the National Plan.

In addition to those directly suffering from Alzheimer's, families are considerably affected by this disease as they care for their loved ones. We therefore also urge you to provide appropriate support to Alzheimer's disease and dementia initiatives through the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that seek to support family caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and to expand awareness and understanding of this disease.

We understand the challenges you face in setting FY 2019 appropriations levels, and we thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



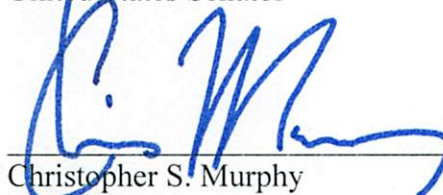
James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator

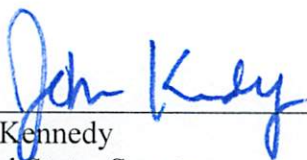


Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator

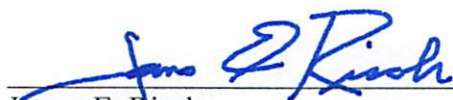




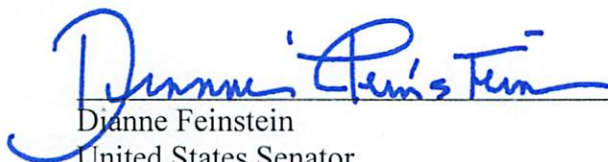
John Kennedy  
United States Senator



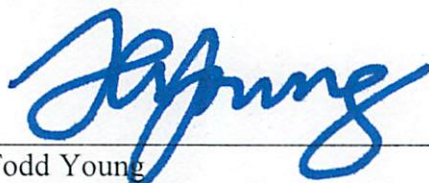
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



James E. Risch  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Todd Young  
United States Senator



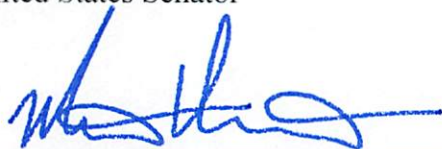
Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



John Hoeven  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



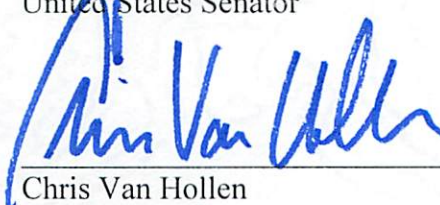
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



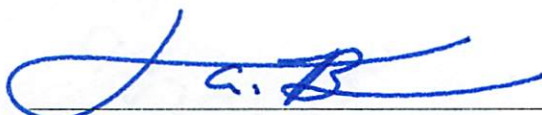
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



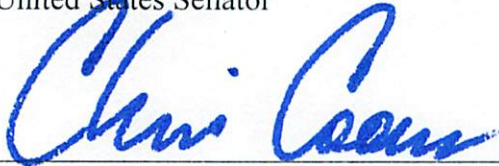
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Bill Nelson  
United States Senator



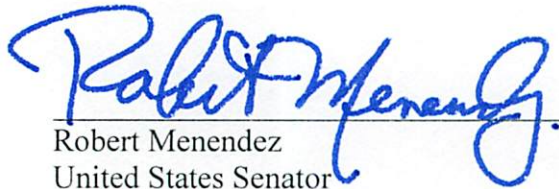
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



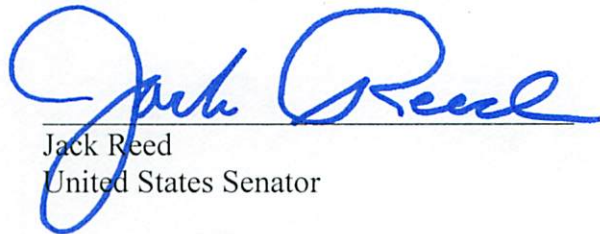
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



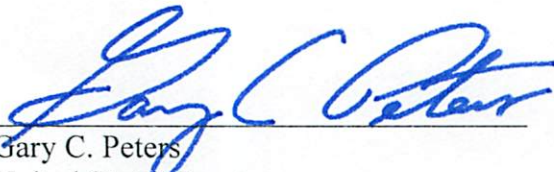
Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



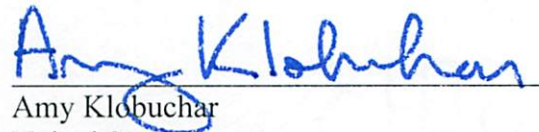
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



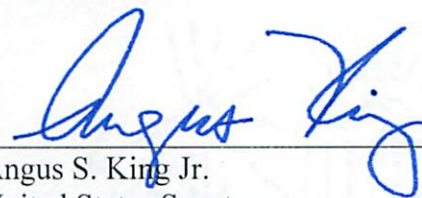
Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



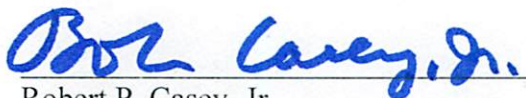
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



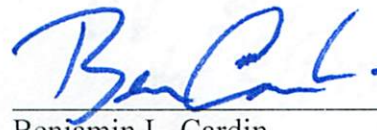
Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



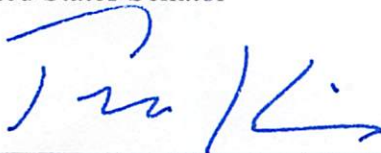
Angus S. King Jr.  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator