

April 19, 2022

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education and Related  
Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, Education and  
Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Blunt:

We write to ask that you consider funding the Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at \$60 million in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2023.

Alzheimer's disease is a public health crisis; more than 6 million Americans are living with the disease, with nearly 14 million people expected to be diagnosed with Alzheimer's by 2050. Women and communities of color bear a disproportionate burden, with women making up two-thirds of Alzheimer's cases. By 2030, nearly 40 percent of all Americans living with Alzheimer's will be Black or Latino.

Alzheimer's not only takes a toll on patients and their families, it also has a significant economic impact. Without early intervention and treatment, care costs are projected to exceed \$20 trillion over the next 30 years.

Research has found that up to 40 percent of dementia cases can be attributed to modifiable risk factors, meaning that with a robust public health response dementia could be delayed, and possibly prevented, by early intervention. Risk and protective factors for dementia include hypertension, exercise, social engagement, smoking, hearing loss, depression, traumatic brain injury, diabetes, obesity and education.

This research recently led to a historic update of our nation's plan to address Alzheimer's as authorized by the National Alzheimer's Project Act. In December of 2022, HHS Secretary Becerra updated the plan and added a new goal: Accelerate Action to Promote Healthy Aging and Reduce Risk Factors for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias. Achieving this goal will require funding and coordination, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is on point to provide both.

The CDC Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program (ADHAP) is the only place within the CDC dedicated specifically to the promoting the health of older Americans across multiple chronic conditions. ADHAP is the central locus for addressing health equity challenges across chronic conditions that share common risk factors.

As Congress works to draft the Labor-HHS appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2023, the undersigned organizations request an increase for the Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program to \$60 million, to allow for urgently needed investment in infrastructure, health promotion, coordination of healthy aging efforts across the agency and a proactive focus on addressing the social determinants of health and health disparities.

Specifically, this funding will support the CDC Alzheimer's and Healthy Aging program work to:

- strengthen programs that reduce risk, promote health equity, and support populations with a high burden of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD), including the Healthy Brain Initiative;

- build public health infrastructure through BOLD Act initiatives that increase early detection and diagnosis, reduce risk, and support dementia caregiving;
- expand capacity in state, tribal and territorial public health departments to promote the health of older adults within an age-friendly public health system;
- coordinate the implementation of the new, sixth goal of the National Alzheimer's Plan to Accelerate Action to Promote Healthy Aging and Reduce Risk Factors for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia;
- fund applied research and translation for public health practice;
- support public health strategies for addressing the social determinants of health that contribute to disparities in healthy aging and brain health.

The Administration and the scientific community have identified Alzheimer's disease (the most common form of dementia) as a priority area – with good reason. Dementia ranks at the top of fears of aging Americans and is on track to triple by 2060. It is the only top-10 cause of death in the U.S. With no known cure. ADRD research is critical, particularly because ADRD is a public health challenge that is intricately connected to other chronic conditions.

Significant investment is needed to ensure that we are increasing not only lifespan but also health span. Any efforts to improve pandemic preparedness and prevent the spread of infectious disease must also include efforts to prevent chronic disease, address health disparities and, ultimately, improve underlying health and wellness for older Americans.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to increase support for the CDC's work to promote healthy aging and reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Niles Godes at [NGodes@UsAgainstAlzheimers.org](mailto:NGodes@UsAgainstAlzheimers.org).

Sincerely,

AgeWell Middle Tennessee  
 Aging Life Care Association®  
 Alliance for Aging Research  
 Alzheimer's Association  
 The Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation  
 Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM)  
 Alzheimer's Los Angeles  
 Alzheimer's New Jersey  
 Alzheimer's Orange County  
 Alzheimer's San Diego  
 American Association on Health and Disability  
 American Heart Association  
 American Medical Women's Association  
 American Psychological Association  
 American Public Health Association  
 American Society on Aging  
 Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
 Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
 Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
 Azusa Pacific University  
 Banner Alzheimer's Institute  
 Blue Monarch Health, PLLC  
 Brain Health Initiative, Inc.

Care Generation  
Caregiver Action Network  
Caring Kind  
Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of Elders (CARIE)  
Center for BrainHealth®, University of Texas, Dallas  
Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, Nevada  
Coalition of Wisconsin Aging and Health Groups  
Disability Policy Consortium  
The Gerontological Society of America  
Global Alzheimer's Platform Foundation  
Health Equity Collaborative Lakeshore Foundation  
Healthy Kinder International, LLC  
HealthyWomen  
International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association (IHRSA)  
Justice in Aging  
Latinos for a Secure Retirement  
Laurentian University  
LEAD (Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease) Coalition  
Lewy Body Dementia Association  
Marilyn's Legacy  
Midwest Asian Health Association  
Move to Live More  
National Alliance for Caregiving  
National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse  
The National Association of State Long Term Care Ombudsmen (NASOP)  
National Consumers League  
National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention  
National Medical Association Posit Science  
The Pride Center at Equality Park  
ProVention Health Foundation  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Trust for America's Health  
UsAgainstAlzheimer's  
VeteransAgainstAlzheimer's  
Virtual Brain Health Center Volunteers of America  
Volunteers of America  
Washington University School of Medicine, Department of Neurology  
WomenAgainstAlzheimer's  
YMCA of the USA