



April 4, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid,

We, the undersigned members of the Alzheimer's-serving research and care giving community, are following up on a letter sent on February 28, 2011 **urging the Senate Leadership to maintain Fiscal Year 2010 funding levels for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute on Aging (NIA)**. Funding for NIH and NIA is critically important to improving public health and making progress against Alzheimer's, and we continue to urge you to maintain these levels of funding within the full year Continuing Resolution for FY 11.

There are more than 5 million Americans suffering from Alzheimer's disease resulting in an estimated \$183 billion in annual costs to our country. Currently, there is an unsustainable imbalance in public health cost versus federal investment that will increase dramatically in the coming decades as our nation's baby boomers become eligible for Medicare in droves. Medicare spends three times more to care for chronically ill beneficiaries with Alzheimer's, and Medicaid spending on Alzheimer's patients is nine times greater than spending on non-Alzheimer's beneficiaries. The nation has two choices – invest in promising Alzheimer's research today, or pay a far, far greater bill for the cost of care tomorrow.

The NIH is an engine for curing disease, extending life, and reducing the cost of health care. Cutting NIH funding, including funds for the Alzheimer's Disease Centers, a backbone of basic research, clinical trials, and clinical care, will halt promising research on new approaches to diagnose, prevent, and treat cost-intensive, age-related diseases. In addition, cutting funds will eliminate jobs across the country as global competitors continue to invest aggressively in science to strengthen their own economies. Worse, it is a devastating blow to the millions of patients that rely every day on NIH for the possibility of a healthier tomorrow and to the next generation of promising U.S. scientists.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Sally Sachar, Executive Director of USAgainstAlzheimer's at (202) 360-2043 or ssachar@usagainstalzheimer.org or Sue Peschin, Vice President of Public Policy for the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, at 202466-0590 or speschin@alzfdn.org. USAgainstAlzheimer's and The Alzheimer's Foundation are co-conveners of Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease (LEAD), a coalition of Alzheimer's-serving organizations committed to increasing America's commitment to stop Alzheimer's disease.

Sincerely,



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