



ALZHEIMER'S FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

Our mission is "to provide optimal care and services to individuals confronting dementia, and to their caregivers and families—through member organizations dedicated to improving quality of life."

September 17, 2010

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
United States House of Representatives
229 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Burgess:

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) is pleased to endorse the Making Investments Now for Dementia Act (MIND Act). We commend your leadership in introducing this important legislation. AFA was formed in February 2002 "to provide optimal care and services to individuals confronting dementia, and to their caregivers and families—through member organizations dedicated to improving quality of life." Today, the Alzheimer's Foundation of America's membership consists of more than 1,400 member organizations that provide hands-on programs and services from coast to coast, including grassroots nonprofit organizations, healthcare facilities, government agencies, public safety departments, and long-term care communities.

The MIND Act would establish the issuance of United States Alzheimer's Bonds to aid in the funding of Alzheimer's disease research by creating an additional avenue of funding. Proceeds of bond sales would fund the program and be directed to the Director of the National Institutes of Health solely for Alzheimer's research. The revenues generated by the sale of United States Alzheimer's Bonds would be funds available for research in addition to yearly appropriated funds, rather than replace current funding.

Currently, as many as 5.1 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease according to the National Institute on Aging, and these numbers are projected to increase dramatically in the coming years due to increased life expectancy and the aging of the baby boom generation. The number of people age 65 and older will more than double between 2010 and 2050 to 88.5 million or 20 percent of the population; and those 85 and older will increase three-fold, to 19 million, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

In the years to come, Alzheimer's disease is expected to pose physical and emotional challenges for more and more families and other caregivers, as well as to those with the disease. In addition, the growing number of people with Alzheimer's disease and the costs associated with the disease will put a heavy economic burden on families, businesses and government. Alzheimer's disease-related costs, which currently account for a significant percentage of annual Medicare and Medicaid expenditures, are expected to increase dramatically by 2050. **The MIND Act allows Americans to invest their money in a safe manner while also investing in our country's long-term health by aiding the fight against Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.**

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AFA is the face of care for individuals and their families who are affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. We are proud to support the MIND Act and we look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me, or have your staff contact Sue Peschin, AFA vice president of public policy, at (202) 466-0590.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric J. Hall", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eric J. Hall
President and Chief Executive Officer