



Congressman Michael C. Burgess
U.S. House of Representatives
229 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 21, 2010

Dear Representative Burgess:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, thank you for your leadership on issues important to Americans with Alzheimer's and their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association proudly supports the *Making Investments Now for Dementia Act (MIND Act)* and its goal of increased Alzheimer research at the National Institutes of Health. We look forward to the introduction of this important legislation in the House of Representatives.

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer care, support, and research. Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia, accounting for 60 to 80 percent of cases. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease and other dementias through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's.

As you know, an estimated 5.3 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, and without significant action, 13.5 million Americans will have Alzheimer's disease by 2050. This explosive growth will cause Alzheimer's costs to Medicare and Medicaid to increase from \$122 billion today to \$805 billion in 2050 (in today's dollars) and threatens to bankrupt families, businesses, and our health care system. Unfortunately, our work is only growing more urgent.

Currently, the Federal Government spends \$100 on Alzheimer's disease research for every \$25,000 spent on the care of people with Alzheimer's and other dementias. By establishing the issuance of United States Alzheimer's Bonds, we can create an additional source of funding specifically for Alzheimer research at the National Institutes of Health. An advance in Alzheimer research has the potential both to save millions of lives and billions of dollars for the nation's public health programs.

The Alzheimer's Association appreciates your leadership on this important issue. We look forward to working with you to enact this important legislation. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Richards, Managing Director of Federal Affairs at mary.richards@alz.org or at 202.638.8661.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RE", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert Egge
Vice President, Public Policy & Advocacy