



Center for Health Transformation
Better health, lower cost

September 21, 2010

Congressman Michael Burgess, M.D. (TX-26)
229 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Burgess:

I would like to offer my gratitude for your dedication and steadfast leadership in the pursuit of finding a cure to Alzheimer's disease. This commitment is evident in the Making Investments Now for Dementia Act (MIND Act), and I would like to offer my full support of this legislation and look forward to the great progress it will spur.

Alzheimer's is a devastating disease and currently affects an estimated 5.3 million Americans. Today nearly one out of every seven Americans is over the age of 65; however, in two decades that number will jump to one out of every five. Already, treating Alzheimer's patient's costs Medicare and Medicaid billions of dollars annually. We are on the cusp of a quickly aging population, and there is not time to hesitate in the advancement of research in this field.

While we track the number of those plagued with this disease, at times we forget the family members, caregivers and loved ones who are also affected. Each of them is an advocate and supporter, fighting to find a cure. The MIND Act creates an opportunity to allow all Americans to have an impact and support those personally affected by this disease, while also investing in the long term future of our country's health. This integration will foster a support system as well as increase research funding.

We need to move from not only treating the patient, but to treating the problem as well. The MIND Act will guide us into a new era of discovery, and through your devotion, great advancements will be made. I appreciate your dedication and leadership on this issue, and look forward to working with you as this legislation progresses.

Your friend,

Newt Gingrich