



The Honorable Michael C. Burgess
U.S. House of Representatives
2241 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 9, 2011

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. Starting this year, more than 10,000 baby boomers a day will turn 65. As these baby boomers age, one in eight will develop Alzheimer's. 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.

By establishing the issuance of United States Alzheimer's Bonds, the MIND Act creates 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. Currently, for every \$100 the Federal government spends on Alzheimer research, it spends more than \$25,000 for care for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias. With the cooperation of the medical and research communities, we are at a tipping point. We have the ideas, the technology and the will, but we need a focused commitment from the federal government.

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 long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert Egge
Vice President, Public Policy