



The Honorable Edward Markey
U.S. Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Michael Crapo
U.S. Senate
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 1, 2014

Dear Senator Markey and Senator Crapo:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, thank you for your leadership on issues important to Americans with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association proudly supports the *Alzheimer's Accountability Act* and its goal of ensuring Congress hears directly from America's scientific leadership at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on the resources needed for Alzheimer's research.

More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and, without significant action, 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's disease by 2050. A study funded by NIH and published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* confirmed that Alzheimer's is the most expensive disease in America. As 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 \$150 billion today to more than \$800 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 authorizing NIH to develop a Professional Judgment Budget, the *Alzheimer's Accountability Act* allows Congress to hear directly from the scientists charged with leading our Alzheimer's research enterprise just what is needed to fulfill the goals of the National Alzheimer's Plan – to effectively treat and prevent Alzheimer's by 2025. This addresses the recent recommendations of the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care and Services, created by Congress through the National Alzheimer's Project Act (P.L. 111-375), and will serve to be both an accountability tool and detailed research plan.

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 Rachel Conant, Director of Federal Affairs, at rconant@alz.org or at 202.638.7121.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Egge".

Robert Egge
Vice President, Public Policy