

Latinos4gainstAlzheimer's

A Network of UsAgainstAlzheimer's

March 23, 2016

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Cole and Ranking Members Lowey and DeLauro:

On behalf of the millions of Latino families struggling with Alzheimer's and dementia, the **LatinosAgainstAlzheimer's Coalition** wishes to again thank you for the significant funding increase in last year's FY16 budget for Alzheimer's research and asks for your continued leadership in support of dementia and aging research within the FY 2017 budget. Specifically, we request that you commit at least one percent of the cost of treating persons living with dementia to research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and to move us substantially closer to this goal in FY 2017. Today, this amount would be approximately \$2 billion, the minimum annual amount of public research funding leading dementia researchers have recommended must be committed to maximize the likelihood of achieving the nation's goal of preventing and effectively treating dementia by 2025.

Alzheimer's is an underappreciated health disparity, impacting Latinos 1.5 times more than non-Latino whites. Further, Latinos present symptoms of Alzheimer's an average of seven years earlier than non-Latino whites, meaning Latinos are living with Alzheimer's longer and at higher emotional and financial costs than other communities. Approximately one in five Latino family caregivers are caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's, dementia, or a related mental condition, often providing around the clock care without compensation.

As you assemble the FY 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, we urge that you increase Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research funding at the NIH as greatly as possible. If similar commitments are made over the following two years, we will meet and exceed the \$2 billion target by FY 2019.

The costs associated with Alzheimer's disease are growing at an unsustainable rate - a trend that will grow worse as the baby boomer generation ages and the number of people living and dying

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from Alzheimer's increases. According to a recent study by the RAND Corporation, the total economic costs of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in 2010 was estimated to be \$109 billion for direct care alone. Further, the costs associated with Alzheimer's rises dramatically when the cost of informal care is factored in. According to RAND, the cost associated with informal care brings the Alzheimer's bill to approximately \$215 billion annually.

To adequately address the Alzheimer's and dementia challenge, it is imperative that you prioritize Alzheimer's and dementia research funding within the FY 2017 budget. This investment is critical to curbing the growing impact of dementia on communities of color.

Please contact Jason Resendez, executive director of the LatinosAgainstAlzheimer's Coalition at jresendez@usagainstalzhimers.org or (202) 280-0884, with questions or for additional information.

Sincerely,

The Latino Alzheimer's and Memory Disorders Alliance (LAMDA)

The Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA)

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

The National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA)

MANA - A National Latina Organization (MANA)