

# Latinos4gainstAlzheimer's

A Network of UsAgainstAlzheimer's

March 23, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations United States  
Senate  
S 128 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
S-146 A The Capitol Washington, DC  
20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS and  
Education  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS and  
Education  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Blunt and Ranking Members Mikulski and Murray:

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.

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[www.LatinosAgainstAlzheimers.org](http://www.LatinosAgainstAlzheimers.org)

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 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](mailto: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)

Daisy Duarte, LatinosAgainstAlzheimer's Patient & Caregiver Advocate - Springfield, MO