



THE BRAINS BEHIND SAVING YOURS:™

The Honorable Roger Wicker
United States Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

December 16, 2016

Dear Senator Wicker:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, thank you for your work on issues important to Americans with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association applauds you for your leadership on the Ensuring Useful Research Expenditures is Key for Alzheimer's (EUREKA) Act and its goal of advancing research breakthroughs for Alzheimer's disease. We also thank you for speaking to our advocates about EUREKA at the 2016 Alzheimer's Association Advocacy Forum. Now that EUREKA has been incorporated into the 21st Century Cures Act, we look forward to working with you to implement this important legislation.

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. 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, more than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, and without significant action, as many as 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's disease by 2050. More than 10,000 baby boomers a day will turn 65 and 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 \$160 billion today to \$1.1 trillion 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.

The inclusion of the EUREKA Prize Competitions in the 21st Century Cures Act will help to advance research breakthroughs for Alzheimer's disease, and encourage public-private partnerships. By creating a prize-based program for breakthroughs in Alzheimer's research, EUREKA creates an additional incentive for individuals and organizations to invest in novel research in Alzheimer's and related dementias. An advance in Alzheimer's 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's research, Medicare and Medicaid spend \$16,000 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 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', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Egge
Executive Vice President, Government Affairs
Alzheimer's Association