



September 21, 2015

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

Dear Senator Wicker:

Thank you for introducing the Ensuring Useful Research Expenditures is Key for Alzheimer's (EUREKA) Act to supplement, not supplant, other public and private sources of dementia research funding.

Your keen understanding of dementia's enormous personal and societal toll is demonstrated in each of the legislation's key features. The Act places improved quality of life for people facing dementia today on equal footing with pursuit of scientific progress. The Act addresses dementia in all its causes including Alzheimer's disease, vascular disease, Lewy body disease, and frontotemporal degeneration. This is a time of great and deserved hope in dementia as Congress and the National Institutes of Health have begun to address chronic underfunding of research; the Act's focus on pay for success highlights that we need not only more research but better research, research that changes the lives of people living with dementia today and that reduces or eliminates the risk of people having to live with dementia in the future.

We all know the public health, budgetary and macro-economic statistics about dementia. All too many people know first-hand the individual human toll. You have been a vocal, powerful and effective voice for individual Mississippians and millions of others across this country whose personal stories demand attention and demand change. The EUREKA Act gives voice to the fundamental truth that dementia research needs greater urgency, greater innovation, and greater results.

As executive director of Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease, a diverse national coalition of 77 member organizations, I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with you and your colleagues to advance the EUREKA Act.

Sincerely,

Ian Kremer
Executive Director
LEAD Coalition