

December 6, 2016

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

Dear Senator Wicker,

On behalf of UsAgainstAlzheimer's, the national movement committed to stopping Alzheimer's disease, I am writing to congratulate you on securing the inclusion of the EUREKA Prize legislation within the 21st Century Cures package. This milestone is directly attributable to your tireless work on this legislation, including your dogged pursuit of more than 60 cosponsors over the past year.

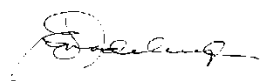
It has been our pleasure to work with you and your office, particularly Sarah Lloyd Stevenson, to develop and refine this important legislation. We understand the importance of perseverance; much like the pursuit of disease-modifying therapies and, ultimately, a cure for Alzheimer's is no small task, the inclusion of EUREKA in the Cures legislation is no small feat either.

UsAgainstAlzheimer's appreciates the innovative and much needed approach to address the Alzheimer's and dementia crisis reflected in your legislation. By deploying prize competitions to address the major scientific impediments standing in the way of the life changing research needed to improve care and support for persons with Alzheimer's and their caregivers, we may be able to 'unlock' ideas and energy otherwise caught in the web of 'business-as-usual'. More than 5 million individuals are slowly dying from the disease today and the impact extends beyond those suffering from the illness as they require care from over 15 million caregivers. As we have seen in recent high-profile announcements, there is much we do not know about this disease. A competition like EUREKA can help attract the brightest minds as well as innovative approaches to efforts to overcome heretofore insurmountable scientific impediments in a cost-effective manner.

UsAgainstAlzheimer's is committed to facilitating collaboration among the public and private sectors to develop solutions to this problem because we recognize that government resources alone are inadequate and that a national plan requires the commitment of all parties, including the private sector, if we hope to be successful. EUREKA exemplifies this spirit of public-private partnership, enabling non-governmental entities to contribute to the prize fund and by forming an expert advisory panel to share expertise on the specific challenges to be pursued. We look forward to working with you and your staff going forward to ensure the National Institutes of Health (NIH) implements the EUREKA prize competition and focuses on Alzheimer's right out of the gate.

Thank you again for your tremendous leadership on EUREKA and for your overall commitment to stopping Alzheimer's disease.

Sincerely,



George Vradenburg
Founder and Chairman