



Accelerate Cure/Treatments for Alzheimer's Disease

Advisory Council

April 25, 2007

Alliance for Aging Research

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

Alzheimer's Foundation of America

American Society on Aging

National Alliance for Caregiving

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

National Consumers League

Research!America

Society for Women's Health Research

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston:

The coalition to Accelerate Cure/Treatments for Alzheimer's Disease (ACT-AD) is comprised of 49 national organizations representing patients, caregivers, researchers, health professionals, and other health advocates. Our mission is to support efforts to expedite the development, review, and approval of transformational therapies for Alzheimer's disease within the next ten years. We are committed to collaborating with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to achieve this goal, but in order to do so the FDA must be provided with sufficient appropriations.

There are numerous compounds currently in development for Alzheimer's disease. Several of these are demonstrating promise at various stages of development. However, under the current regulatory environment, many of the discoveries made today cannot provide a cure in time to reach the 14 million Americans expected to suffer from the devastating effects of Alzheimer's in the future. An improved process for the evaluation of new technologies to detect, slow, and reverse the effects of Alzheimer's disease must be implemented to avert a national crisis. Such a process will require increased focus, expertise, and manpower devoted to Alzheimer's disease at the FDA.

Over the past 20 years, Congress has charged FDA with growing number of responsibilities without providing adequate appropriations to execute them. In fact, a recent analysis of the Agency's budget and workload suggests that it is underfunded by as much as \$800 million in overall appropriations. Because the majority of FDA's budget is devoted to maintaining a highly-skilled workforce, meager funding increases in recent years have largely been consumed by inflation costs and necessary salary increases. If the FDA were to take on a new mission such as the one

necessary salary increases. If the FDA were to take on a new mission such as the one we are proposing, it would have to do so by undercutting other important existing priorities.

To ensure that the FDA has the flexibility to pursue worthy initiatives in addition to its mandated responsibilities, ACT-AD recommends a \$40 million increase in the drug budget at FDA for FY 2008 (over and above industry user fees). This increase would begin to promote and advance new tools that will revolutionize the way diseases like Alzheimer's are detected and treated.

The members of ACT-AD and the millions of Americans we represent appreciate your attention to this issue and your consideration of this important request. If we can be of assistance to the subcommittee as it contemplates the appropriate level of funding for the FDA this year, please contact Cynthia Farrell on the coalition staff at (202) 293-2856 x116.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Perry", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel Perry
Chairman