

Advisory Council

March 17, 2016

**Alliance for Aging
Research**

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and
Related Agencies
2362A Rayburn House Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and
Related Agencies
129 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

**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 Sam Farr
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and
Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and
Related Agencies
190 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Moran and Aderholt and Ranking Members Merkley and Farr,

[Accelerate Cure/Treatments for Alzheimer's Disease \(ACT-AD\)](#) is a coalition of more than 50 national organizations representing patients, caregivers, researchers, health professionals, and other health advocates seeking to accelerate the development of potential cures and treatments for Alzheimer's disease. On behalf of ACT-AD, I urge you to prioritize the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) during the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 appropriations process by increasing the agency's appropriated funding by \$120 million. This would take the agency from the FY 16 funding level of \$2.73 billion to a proposed \$2.85 billion for FY 17.

From 2010 to 2050, the direct cost of care for Americans age 65 and older with Alzheimer's disease will increase five-fold, from \$172 billion to \$1.08 trillion per year. There are more than 80 therapeutic compounds in various stages of clinical development for Alzheimer's disease. Unfortunately, because of the current drug development paradigm, research being performed today cannot reach patients in time to avert this looming fiscal and public health disaster. If the United States is to win the battle against Alzheimer's disease, Congress must increase the investments made into the FDA.

In recent years the FDA has undertaken crucial, but resource-intensive initiatives for the timely review of Alzheimer's disease therapies. These activities include the release of draft guidance for industry detailing FDA's current thinking on early Alzheimer's disease therapeutic development. The agency also has increased its participation in national and international meetings with patient advocates,

researchers, and industry focused on improving Alzheimer's disease clinical trials. It is essential that the FDA have the resources that enable their engagement with researchers, patients and caregivers so that they can incorporate emerging insights and cutting edge discoveries into the agency's regulation of therapies.

The pace of innovation is rapidly increasing, along with the complexity of therapeutic applications. If the United States is to be at the forefront of medical innovation, the FDA must be provided with the financial support to facilitate nimble and up-to-date regulatory approaches. Accordingly, appropriations for the agency should be increased by \$120 million over FY 2016 levels.

We urge you to support the FDA's vital role in our nation's battle against Alzheimer's disease by strengthening the appropriated investment in the agency. Consider ACT-AD a resource to you and your staff and please do not hesitate to contact me at cbens@agingresearch.org or (202) 293-2856.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia Bens". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Cynthia Bens
Executive Director