



THE BRAINS BEHIND SAVING YOURS.™

September 8, 2015

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building

The Honorable Susan Collins
U.S. Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building

The Honorable Christopher H. Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
2373 Rayburn House Office Building

The Honorable Paul Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
2463 Rayburn House Office Building

Dear Senator Stabenow, Senator Collins, Representative Smith, and Representative Tonko:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, thank you for your leadership on issues important to all Americans with dementia, including those with Alzheimer's disease. We proudly support your legislation, the *Health Outcomes, Planning, and Education (HOPE) for Alzheimer's Act (S. 857/H.R. 1559)* as a critical step forward in improving care for people with dementia.

Absent a medical treatment that will prevent, cure, or stop the progression of dementia, we must inform and support families after a diagnosis to maintain quality of life, improve outcomes, and control costs. Unfortunately, many individuals diagnosed with dementia are never given the opportunity to fully discuss the diagnosis, their options for treatment and support, or develop a comprehensive care plan. The *HOPE for Alzheimer's Act* builds on existing Medicare coverage to provide beneficiaries diagnosed with dementia and their caregivers with comprehensive care planning services, including:

- Information about the diagnosis and what it means for the beneficiary and their family;
- Review of medical and non-medical options for treatment, services, and supports;
- Development of an initial, comprehensive care plan that addresses any other conditions the beneficiary may have; and
- Documentation of the diagnosis and care plan in the beneficiary's medical record.

The latest version of the *HOPE for Alzheimer's Act* also maintains critical elements that would allow for the care planning services to be received by a beneficiary's caregiver(s) or personal representative(s), with or without the patient present. Such consultations are often needed to ensure appropriate care planning services are understood and received by the newly-diagnosed. This also assists practitioners by allowing for a more-efficient delivery of information and care planning services for the newly-diagnosed.

We commend you for your leadership and commitment to helping those with dementia, as well as their families and caregivers and look forward to working with you to achieve enactment of the *HOPE for Alzheimer's Act (S. 857/H.R. 1559)* this Congress.

Signed,

Abe's Garden
ACT on Alzheimer's
Alzheimer's Association
Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation
Alzheimer's Foundation of America
Alzheimer's Tennessee
AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
American Academy of Neurology
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Federation for Aging Research
American Geriatrics Society
American Health Care Association
Assisted Living Federation of America
Banner Alzheimer's Institute
Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute
BrightFocus Alzheimer's Disease Research
Center for Elder Care and Advanced Illness, Altarum Institute
Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment, Harvard Medical School
Center for Brain Health at The University of Texas at Dallas
Center to Advance Palliative Care
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cognition Therapeutics
CorTechs Labs
Cure Alzheimer's Fund
Darrell K. Royal Fund for Alzheimer's Research
Department of Neurology, Washington University School of Medicine
Geoffrey Beene Foundation Alzheimer's Initiative
Georgetown University Medical Center Memory Disorders Program
Gerontological Society of America
Indiana University Center for Aging Research
Keep Memory Alive
Latino Alzheimer's and Memory Disorders Alliance
Lewy Body Dementia Association
LuMind Research Down Syndrome Foundation
Memory Training Centers of America
Mount Sinai Center for Cognitive Health
National Alliance for Caregiving
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc.
National Center for Assisted Living
National Certification Council for Activity Professionals
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Down Syndrome Society
National Hispanic Council on Aging
National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices
Neurocern
NFL Neurological Center
OWL-The Voice of Women 40+
Pat Summitt Foundation
Planetree
Presence Care Project

ResearchersAgainstAlzheimer's
Second Wind Dreams, Inc./ Virtual Dementia Tour
The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration
The Eden Alternative
USAgainstAlzheimer's
USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute
Volunteers of America