

# ResearchersAgainstAlzheimer's

July 24, 2012

The Honorable Joe Pitts  
Chairman  
Energy & Commerce Committee  
Subcommittee on Health  
420 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

## **VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY**

Dear Chairman Pitts:

As researchers on the front lines working to discover therapies to prevent and treat Alzheimer's disease and dementia, we are writing to request that you and your committee convene a hearing to examine the government's implementation of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease. We have made our collective life's work the discovery of the means to prevent and treat Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Indeed we feel so strongly about achieving the National Plan's first goal of preventing and effectively treating this horrific disease by 2025 that we have organized ResearchersAgainstAlzheimer's, a unified voice of researchers, in order to marshal the energy, resources, and vision that will be needed to do so.

Congress has recognized the need for a coordinated national effort to defeat Alzheimer's disease. Now that the first-ever national plan has been released, the challenge before all of us – governmental and non-governmental entities – is to implement the strategies and actions faithfully and with alacrity. By engaging in appropriate and thorough oversight of the implementation efforts – including the work of non-governmental entities – Congress will hold all parties to account and maximize the likelihood of keeping the plan on track.

We know your committee has many issues before it, but we strongly believe that holding a hearing this fall – just shy of the two year anniversary of Congress's bi-partisan enactment of the National Alzheimer's Project Act – will send an important message to government agencies, academia, industry, researchers and other stakeholders that Congress too is committed to this cause.

On behalf of the 230 members of ResearchersAgainstAlzheimer's and the more than five million Americans suffering from Alzheimer's disease and the millions more family caregivers, thank you for considering this request. If you would like to discuss this issue further, please feel free to contact Dr. Bruce Lamb at [btlamb1@researchersagainstalzheimer.org](mailto:btlamb1@researchersagainstalzheimer.org).

Sincerely,

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