



The Honorable Edward J. Markey
U.S. House of Representatives
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

June 19, 2013

Dear Congressman Markey:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association and its nationwide network of advocates, thank you for your stalwart and continued leadership on issues and legislation important to Americans with Alzheimer's and their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association proudly supports your most recent Alzheimer's bill, H.R. 1508, which calls upon the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal stamp supporting medical research relating to Alzheimer's disease.

The Alzheimer's Association is the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease and other dementias through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, you know that more than 5 million Americans are living with the disease, and without significant action, as many as 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's by 2050. A recent study funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* further confirmed that Alzheimer's disease is the most expensive disease in America. Additionally, as the baby boomer generation ages, one in eight will develop Alzheimer's. This explosive growth will cause Alzheimer's costs to Medicare and Medicaid to increase from \$142 billion today to more than \$800 billion in 2050 (in today's dollars) and threatens to bankrupt families, businesses and our health care system. Unfortunately, our work is only growing more urgent.

The Alzheimer's Association strongly supports efforts to increase funding for Alzheimer's research at the NIH and recognizes the potential of a semipostal stamp to support advances in medical research relating to Alzheimer's disease. A semipostal stamp would allow all Americans to contribute to Alzheimer's research while raising awareness of this devastating disease across the nation.

The Alzheimer's Association deeply appreciates your continued leadership on behalf of all American's living with Alzheimer's. If you have any questions about this or any other legislation, please contact Rachel Conant, Director of Federal Affairs, at rconant@alz.org or at 202.638.7121.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "REgge", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Egge
Vice President, Public Policy