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November 28, 2016

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
835 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, thank you both for your leadership on issues important to Americans with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association strongly supports the *21st Century Cures Act* and its goal of accelerating the discovery, development and delivery of new cures.

The Alzheimer's Association is the 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.

More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, which is a leading cause of death and the only cause of death in the top 10 without a way to prevent, cure or even slow its progression. Without significant action, as many as 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's disease by 2050. More than 10,000 baby boomers a day will turn 65 and as these baby boomers age, one in eight will develop Alzheimer's. This explosive growth will cause Alzheimer's costs to Medicare and Medicaid to increase from \$160 billion today to \$735 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 *21st Century Cures Act* is a comprehensive approach to increasing research funding and creating a regulatory framework that brings biomedical cures to the market quickly and efficiently. It would increase funding at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for innovative approaches to addressing complex and unmet diseases, fund efforts like the Precision Medicine Initiative and the BRAIN Initiative, and, importantly, streamline the regulatory process to ensure that those treatments can be available to patients as soon as possible. Additionally, the bill includes new ways to integrate the patient's voice and experience into the drug development process. We also appreciate the inclusion of prize authority for NIH to support innovation in diseases that represent a significant burden.

The Alzheimer's Association appreciates the efforts that all of your fellow committee members have put into developing and advancing the *21st Century Cures Act*. We look forward to working with you to enact this important legislation. If you have any questions, 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 'R. Egge', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Egge
Executive Vice President, Government Affairs
Alzheimer's Association