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June 6, 2016

The Honorable Patrick Murphy
United States House of Representatives
211 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Murphy:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, thank you for your leadership on issues important to Americans with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers. The Alzheimer's Association supports H.R. 5366, the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Sunshine Act, and its goal of accelerating and incentivizing pharmaceutical breakthroughs for Alzheimer's disease.

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, and 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 Association strongly believes that a comprehensive and robust research agenda around Alzheimer's disease is critical to the development and availability of treatments and ultimately a cure. We understand that the life cycle of therapeutic development is costly and lengthy for any disease state, and is particularly so for Alzheimer's. We know that a critical investment incentive -- patent or data exclusivity -- may be short lived for an Alzheimer's product given the time it will take to develop, test and hopefully win approval for a new therapy.

The Alzheimer's Association appreciates your willingness to continue to engage on the dialogue around advancing treatments for Alzheimer's disease. We look forward to working with you on a bipartisan basis to advance pathways that will make more therapeutic options available and accessible to patients. 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", written over a white background.

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