MIND Act: Making Investments Now for Dementia Act

Background
Neurologists have expertise in treating individuals with Alzheimer’s disease, which is the most common cause of dementia. Usually diagnosed after age 60, Alzheimer’s disease destroys brain cells, causing progressive memory loss and reducing cognitive abilities, which leads to inhibited daily and social functioning. Currently in the United States:

- 5.3 million Americans live with Alzheimer’s disease
- One in eight Americans over 65 and almost half of Americans over 85 have Alzheimer’s
- 10 million baby boomers are expected to be diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease
- $172 billion is the annual cost of Alzheimer’s disease
- Alzheimer’s is the 7th leading cause of death in the US

In spite of the research gains already made, still very little is known about the evolution and prevention of Alzheimer’s. To avert the future crisis of Alzheimer’s disease, additional avenues of funding for biomedical research are needed today in order to quickly and most efficiently find a way to end this disease.

Costs
The cumulative cost for the care of people with Alzheimer’s from 2010 to 2050 is likely to exceed $20 trillion in today’s dollars. In the absence of disease-modifying treatments, the following trajectory is expected:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2010</th>
<th>2050</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Costs of care for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease by all payers</td>
<td>$172 billion</td>
<td>$1 trillion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medicare costs</td>
<td>$88 billion</td>
<td>$627 billion</td>
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<td>Medicaid costs</td>
<td>$34 billion</td>
<td>$178 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Americans age 65 and older with Alzheimer’s disease</td>
<td>5.1 million</td>
<td>13.5 million</td>
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Source: A National Alzheimer’s Strategic Plan, Alzheimer’s Study Group

Legislative Solution
The Making Investments Now for Dementia (MIND) Act (HR 610) would fund crucial Alzheimer’s research by issuing new US Alzheimer’s Bonds. Proceeds would be dedicated strictly for Alzheimer’s research within the National Institutes of Health. These funds would be available in addition to the current annual appropriations. These bonds would have a similar rate of return as other Treasury bonds and have the unique benefit of allowing individuals not only to make safe investments but also to support important advances in the future of Alzheimer’s care.

Please support the MIND Act (HR 610).