

September 8, 2021

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

On behalf of millions of families in our nation affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementia (ADRD), we urge you to include an ambitious ADRD prevention goal in your upcoming update to the National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) Plan. This is a historic opportunity to advance President Biden's strong commitment to stopping Alzheimer's and to build on the [legacy](#) started by the Obama-Biden Administration in the 10th anniversary year of the first NAPA plan.

There is strong and broad support for a national goal on prevention and risk reduction.

The NAPA Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services unanimously adopted a [recommendation](#) on July 19 to update the National Plan by adding a sixth goal: **Reduce the Burden of Risk Factors for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia**. An aggressive 15 percent per decade reduction in these risk factors could result in as many as 1.2 million fewer people living with ADRD in 2050. The Advisory Council's recommendations have been transmitted to you and to Congress for action, along with specific strategies and tactics to achieve this goal.

In addition, a broad range of 200 groups and top leaders – including the AARP, UnidosUS, National Urban League, Volunteers of America, the American Federation of Teachers, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, YMCA of the USA and the American Heart Association – have joined together in a [call to action](#) for a national effort to reduce the risk of Alzheimer's and dementia.

Updating the NAPA plan and publicly embracing this new goal would be a critical step forward to raise awareness of steps we all can take to build cognitive resilience and bring hope for tens of millions of American families.

A greater focus on prevention and risk reduction will show people across the country and the world that dementia is not an inevitable consequence of aging, but instead is a disease that can be prevented, treated, and ultimately cured.

But this can happen only if we, as a nation, come together in a whole-of-government, whole-of-society effort to do so.

We urge you and the President to renew our nation's commitment to preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer's disease by 2025. Please adopt the Advisory Council's recommendation to add this important new goal to the National Plan and direct federal departments and agencies to use all of their authorities to support the goal. We also encourage you to use the bully pulpit of the federal government to promote the goal publicly, encouraging state and local public health departments to make Alzheimer's disease prevention a priority, and to work with NGO's and the private sector to drive a societal approach to do more to prevent Alzheimer's and other dementias.

UsAgainstAlzheimer's and the Alzheimer's Association stand together, ready and willing to support you and President Biden in this important work.

Sincerely,



Russ Paulsen
Chief Operating Officer
UsAgainstAlzheimer's



Robert Egge
Chief Public Policy Officer
Executive Vice President, Government Affairs
Alzheimer's Association