***James Firman, Chair***

March XX, 2018

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto

U.S. Senate

204 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins

U.S. Senate

413 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito

U.S. Senate

172 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito

U.S. Senate

172 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Collins, Cortez Masto, Capito and Kaine:

The undersigned members of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) write to express our appreciation for your leadership in addressing the many challenges we face in the fight against Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia. We are very pleased to support your legislation, the Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s Act (BOLD Act - S.2076).

LCAO is a coalition of non-profit organizations concerned with the well-being of America’s older population and committed to representing their interests in the policy-making arena.

The bill’s application of a public health approach and creation of an infrastructure for the many aspects of Alzheimer’s and related dementias, including prevention, early detection and diagnosis, and treatment is appreciated. This approach is both patient and caregiver-centered and cost effective.

We support the key provisions of the BOLD Act, including the establishment of:

* **Centers of Excellence in Public Health Practice** to promote effective Alzheimer’s disease and caregiving interventions and education;
* **Core Capacity and Enhanced Activity Cooperative Agreements** to provide resources to State Health Departments; and
* **Data Analysis and Reporting Cooperative Agreements** with CDC to ensure that data on Alzheimer’s, cognitive decline, caregiving, and health disparities are analyzed and disseminated to the public in a timely manner.

Finally, the Act complements important ongoing work being done through the Administration on Community Living’s Alzheimer’s Disease Supportive Services Programs and the Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative. With more than five million Americans already living with Alzheimer’s disease or other dementias, the time is long past to direct sufficient time and resources to this crisis. We look forward to working with you to secure passage of the BOLD Act as soon as possible. Please feel free to contact Patricia D’Antonio with the Gerontological Society of America at pdantonio@geron.org if we may be of assistance on this important effort.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Aging Research

Alzheimer’s Foundation of America

American Geriatrics Society (AGS)

American Society on Aging (ASA)

B’nai B’rith International

Easterseals

The Gerontological Society of America (GSA)

The Jewish Federations of North America

Justice in Aging

Medicare Rights Center

National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA)

National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC)

National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

National Center for Creative Aging

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare

National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care

Volunteers of America

Women’s Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER)