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alzheimer's  association<sup>®</sup>

the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

January 17, 2012

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20291

Dear Secretary Sebelius,

We are writing for the 53,000 Kansans who have Alzheimer's disease and the families that love them.

Alzheimer's is unmatched in the scale of its devastating human and economic impact, combined with the fact that, today, absolutely nothing is available to stop, modify or prevent this disease. No other major chronic disease or leading cause of death fits this description.

We are grateful for the leadership this Administration has shown in addressing the Alzheimer's crisis. Thanks to the 2010 White House briefing on Alzheimer's disease, your comments following the passage of the National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA), enactment of the law by the President, and the commendable work of your staff on the implementation of NAPA thus far, this Administration has earned the respect and elevated the expectations of the Alzheimer's community.

For us, who benefited from your tenure as Governor of our state, the leadership shown in this area is not surprising. You and President Obama have created an opportunity right now – a critical moment – to change the trajectory of this disease.

To seize this opportunity, the pending draft of the National Alzheimer's Plan *must* be equal to the crisis. If it does not clearly and specifically commit to the priorities, resources and policies required by the goals and strategies of the draft framework, the disappointment and frustration of seniors and boomers facing this disease will be palpable.

We urge you to maintain the course you have set toward a bold, urgent and accountable National Alzheimer's Plan. Continue to show the American public the leadership that has, for too long, been missing for Alzheimer's.

Respectfully,



Debra R. Brook  
Executive Director

The mission of the Heart of America Chapter is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease 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.

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Suzanne Williams  
Debra R. Brook  
*Executive Director*

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