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January 18, 2012

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

I am writing to you on behalf of the estimated 134,000 individuals battling Alzheimer's in Oklahoma and Arkansas. That number will grow significantly over the next two decades. The time is now for a comprehensive plan for America to address this escalating epidemic.

My family understands the impact of Alzheimer's. After a 17-year degenerative struggle, my grandfather lost his battle with this devastating disease. This battle is one that I take on as my mission, both because of my role with the Alzheimer's Association, and due to my family's experience.

We urge you to maintain the course you have set toward a bold, urgent and accountable National Alzheimer's Plan. It is imperative that the National Alzheimer's Plan includes practical applications for everyone impacted by the challenges of Alzheimer's to accompany the sound policy that will be presented in the final plan.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Fried".

Mark Fried
President & CEO