

NANETTE BARRAGÁN

44TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

WWW.BARRAGAN.HOUSE.GOV

FACEBOOK.COM/CONGRESSWOMANBARRAGAN

TWITTER: @REPBARRAGAN

INSTAGRAM: @REPBARRAGAN

BLUESKY: @REPBARRAGAN.BSKY.SOCIAL

**STEERING & POLICY COMMITTEE**

CO-CHAIR

**CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS**

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE**

SUBCOMMITTEES:

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

ENVIRONMENT

HEALTH



**Congress of the United States**

**House of Representatives**

Washington, DC 20515

**WASHINGTON OFFICE:**

2312 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

(202) 225-8220

**DISTRICT OFFICES:**

**MAIN OFFICE**

4201 LONG BEACH BLVD

SUITE 422

LONG BEACH, CA 90807

(310) 831-1799

638 S. BEACON STREET

SUITE 551

SAN PEDRO, CA 90731

701 E. CARSON STREET

CARSON, CA 90745

8650 CALIFORNIA AVENUE

SOUTH GATE, CA 90280

July 15, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

I am writing to follow-up on the comments and commitments you made related to Alzheimer's disease research at the House Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee Hearing on "The Fiscal Year 2026 Department of Health and Human Services Budget" on Tuesday, June 24, 2025.<sup>1</sup>

Alzheimer's devastates millions of families across this country. It robs loved ones of their memories, their independence, and ultimately their lives. Today, more than 7 million Americans live with Alzheimer's Disease and that number is projected to rise to nearly 13 million by 2050.<sup>2</sup>

During my question time, you said you were unfamiliar with Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers (ADRCs), which are funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH). There are currently 35 ADRCs across the country that are funded by Congressionally approved dollars on a bipartisan basis.<sup>3</sup> As a result of the chaos and confusion caused by the Trump Administration and Department of Government Efficiency, 13 ADRCs have already experienced funding reductions of \$65 million in 2025.<sup>4</sup> When I asked you if you were aware of these cuts, you stated, "I am not, but I will look into it."<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> [Hearing on "The Fiscal Year 2026 Department of Health and Human Services Budget" | Democrats, Energy and Commerce Committee](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Alzheimer's Facts and Figures Report | Alzheimer's Association](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers Struggle As 1/3 Lose Their Federal Funding | Being Patient](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Lifesaving Alzheimer's Research Delayed by Trump Funding Cuts | Scientific American](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Health Subcommittee Hearing: The Fiscal Year 2026 Department of Health and Human Services Budget.](#)  
(see: 1:49:01-1:49:06)



On June 4, 2025, the New York Times reported that, “A number of major Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers, some of which have operated for decades, have waited months for the Trump administration to decide whether to award them fresh five-year grants. The funding gaps have set back ongoing studies and curtailed efforts to take images of patients' brains, though the N.I.H. has recently told some centers that they would soon receive funding.”

Further, per the New York Times, “These centers have become a safety valve for people who can’t get a neurology appointment at a private center. There are fewer clinic appointments, fewer opportunities for these individuals to get brain imaging.” said Dr. Ann Cohen, a co-director of the University of Pittsburgh’s ADRC. Another ADRC director has said that funding uncertainties mean that participants lose trust in the work they’re doing because the ADRC is not able to continue what they’re doing in a reliable manner.<sup>6</sup> News reports describe how these centers are “scrambling to continue their mission” to conduct research, help with diagnosis and medical management, and provide support to those with Alzheimer’s and related dementias.<sup>7</sup>

You also stated, “we have not cut any clinical trials on Alzheimer’s.”<sup>8</sup> However, delays to the ADRCs' funding are impacting clinical trials: there have been cancellations and postponements of grant review meetings, putting trials' futures at risk. The New York Times has reported “The funding gaps have set back ongoing studies and curtailed efforts to take images of patients' brains.”<sup>9</sup> The University of Pittsburgh’s ADRC is one of the affected centers, housing clinical trials, a bank of 1,769 brains, 965 positron emission tomography (PET) scans, 5,000 blood samples and longitudinal data on 6,000-plus patients – altogether accounting for decades of research at an institution that has been funded continuously since 1984.<sup>10</sup>

Currently, another 14 ADRCs are up for renewal in FY 2026.<sup>11</sup> When I asked you to commit to fully funding these 14 ADRCs, you said, “I'm happy to work with you on this, Congresswoman. I don't know if what you're saying is true. It is something that I'll have to confirm and I'm happy to work with you on it.”<sup>12</sup>

Your FY 2026 budget proposes to cut \$1.7 billion from the NIH's National Institute of Aging (NIA),<sup>13</sup> the primary federal agency that supports and conducts Alzheimer's and dementia

---

<sup>6</sup> [Lifesaving Alzheimer’s Research Delayed by Trump Funding Cuts | Scientific American](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers Struggle As 1/3 Lose Their Federal Funding | Being Patient](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Health Subcommittee Hearing: The Fiscal Year 2026 Department of Health and Human Services Budget.](#) (see: 1:50:38-1:51:44)

<sup>9</sup> [Health Subcommittee Hearing: The Fiscal Year 2026 Department of Health and Human Services Budget.](#) (see: 1:51:25-1:51:33)

<sup>10</sup> [PressReader.com | Alzheimer's research centers face Trump-imposed \\$65m funding delay across the US | The Guardian](#)

<sup>11</sup> [RFA-AG-24-001: Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers \(P30 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Health Subcommittee Hearing: The Fiscal Year 2026 Department of Health and Human Services Budget.](#) (see: 1:51:25-1:51:33)

<sup>13</sup> [Fiscal Year 2026 Budget in Brief](#)



research – including the funding of ADRCs.<sup>14</sup> Yet your budget states that “Novel biomedical discoveries that enhance health and lengthen life are more vital than ever to our country’s future” and that “NIH will invest in innovation.”<sup>15</sup>

NIH research is critical for the development of Alzheimer’s disease treatments, funding over \$3.8 billion on Alzheimer’s Related Research in 2024.<sup>16</sup> Thanks to NIH funding that has looked at a broad range of research into new ways to prevent and treat Alzheimer’s, we have made major strides:<sup>17</sup>

- Identifying new risk factors and prevention strategies.
- Developing the first FDA-approved biomarker diagnostic tool for Alzheimer’s.
- Improving dementia care and support for caregivers.

When you testified in front of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions last May, you told Senator Collins you want to work with her to find a cure quickly, and find out why Alzheimer’s rates are increasing<sup>18</sup> – yet your budget and actions say otherwise. Slashing Alzheimer’s research at these critical centers will delay discovery and harm public health.

**I urge you to commit in writing by August 15, 2025, that the NIH will fully fund the 14 ADRCs that are up for renewal in 2026.**

Sincerely,



Nanette Barragán

Member of Congress

---

<sup>14</sup> [National Institute on Aging \(NIA\) | National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#)

<sup>15</sup> [Fiscal Year 2026 Budget in Brief](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Investing in Alzheimer’s Research | Alzheimer’s Impact Movement](#)

<sup>17</sup> [2024 NIH Alzheimer’s and Related Dementias Research Progress Report: Advances and Achievements](#)

<sup>18</sup> [Hearing on Fiscal Year 2026 Department o... | Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions](#)  
(see: 1:01:48-1:02:04)