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Historic Investment Addressing Alzheimer's in Arizona

New budget includes funding to address Alzheimer's crisis

Phoenix, AZ — The Alzheimer's Association applauds the FY2024 bipartisan budget package approved by the Arizona State Legislature and is widely expected to be signed by Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs. The budget package includes historic funding for Alzheimer's disease, including \$4.125M for research and \$1.74M for Alzheimer's programs at AZ Dept of Health Services.

Specifically, the bipartisan budget package includes:

- \$500,000 in additional ongoing funding for Alzheimer's research, bringing the total to \$4,125,000 for FY2024
- \$750,000 for an Alzheimer's Awareness Public Health Campaign targeted at rural and underserved urban areas
- \$964,000 in non-lapsing dollars to be used from FY24-FY26 for dementia-specific positions at DHS and to establish, review and update Alzheimer's state plan.

"We have entered a new era of Alzheimer's treatments and the time to act is now," says Tory Roberg, Government Affairs Director for the Alzheimer's Association. "The state's investment in Alzheimer's programs and research will have a positive impact for families facing this disease. The public awareness campaign about dementia will reduce stigma, increase early detection and diagnosis, and could potentially change the course of the disease in a clinically meaningful way for people living with the disease."

The legislative asks received broad bipartisan support, and were championed by Senator TJ Shope of Coolidge, Representative Tim Dunn of Yuma, Representative Jennifer Longdon of Phoenix, Senator Janae Shamp of Goodyear, and Senator Eva Burch of Mesa.

More than 150,000 Arizonans are currently living with Alzheimer's, a figure expected to reach 200,000 by 2025. Alzheimer's is one of the top leading causes of death in Arizona. Creating a three-year dementia program at DHS will result in a coordination of services across state agencies, local governments, and a network of community and health organizations working to address Alzheimer's, and will accelerate Arizona's ability to address this growing health crisis.

Effective implementation of the Alzheimer's state plan can reduce the long-term impact of the disease on state budgets and improve the lives of people living with dementia and their caregivers.

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About the Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia®. Visit alz.org or call 800.272.3900.