



the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SENATOR MICHAEL BENNET COSPONSORS LEGISLATION
TO CREATE NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S PROJECT OFFICE**

DENVER August 31, 2009 – For the more than 5 million people nationwide living with Alzheimer's, and the 72,000 living right here in Colorado, the Alzheimer's Association® of Colorado commends Senator Bennet for sponsoring the "*National Alzheimer's Project Act*" {S. 1555}. By supporting this important legislation, Senator Bennet has signaled his understanding of the fundamental need for a coordinated federal approach to confront one of America's most feared and costly diseases.

"On behalf of the thousands of Colorado families living with Alzheimer's and the thousands more at risk of developing it in the future, the Alzheimer's Association is grateful for the leadership of Senator Bennet for supporting this meaningful legislation which, if enacted, would play a significant role in addressing the rapidly mounting Alzheimer crisis," stated Linda Mitchell, CEO and president of the Alzheimer's Association of Colorado.

Today there is no one government entity whose sole purpose is to mount a full campaign against Alzheimer's disease which, without the discovery and development of effective treatments, is poised to strike 10 million baby boomers over the coming years. Building on the recommendations offered by the Alzheimer's Study Group (ASG), an independent, bipartisan panel created to evaluate the government's current efforts to combat the disease, this legislation creates a National Alzheimer's Project Office within the Office of the President. Drawing on the expertise residing in various government agencies, this office would provide strategic planning and coordination of the fight against Alzheimer's across the federal government as a whole.

In addition to the devastating impact on families, Alzheimer's also threatens the nation's health care system because of its significant costs. According to the Alzheimer's Association's *2009 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures* report, total healthcare costs are more than three times higher for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias than for other people the same age without the disease. If nothing is done to stop this disease, the government will spend nearly \$20 trillion to care for those with Alzheimer's between today and the middle of the century.

In addition to the tremendous financial and economic burden Alzheimer poses, it also poses significant burden to families across the country. According to the Alzheimer's Association's *2009 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures* report, there are nearly 10 million caregivers nationwide, including 144,000 Alzheimer caregivers in Colorado.

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Alzheimer's Association

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Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer care, support and research. Our mission 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. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's. For more information, visit www.alz.org

About the Alzheimer's Association Colorado Chapter

The Alzheimer's Association Colorado Chapter is the premier source of information and support for the more than 72,000 Coloradans with Alzheimer's disease, their families and caregivers. Through its statewide network of offices, the Alzheimer's Association offers education, counseling, support groups and a 24-hour Helpline at no cost to families. In addition, contributions help fund advancements in research to prevent, treat and eventually conquer this disease. The Alzheimer's Association advocates for those living with Alzheimer's and their families on related legislative issues, and with health and long-term care providers. For information call the Alzheimer's Association at 303-813-1669 or 800-272-3900, or visit www.alz.org/co

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