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**Alzheimer's Association Applauds 21st Century Cures Legislation;
Calls on Reaffirmed Commitment to 2025 Goal Outlined in National Alzheimer's Plan**

*Alzheimer's Stands Alone as the Only Leading Cause of Death in the U.S.
Without a Way to Prevent, Cure or Even Slow Its Progression*

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 14, 2015 – Robert Egge, executive vice president of Government Affairs for the Alzheimer's Association, earlier today commented on the draft of the 21st Century CURES Act legislation scheduled for markup by the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Egge applauded provisions to address the Alzheimer's epidemic in the current legislation, but encouraged vigilance for other important priorities in the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease*, adopted in 2012 at the direction of the 2011 National Alzheimer's Project Act.

Alzheimer's, the most expensive disease in the nation according to a NIH-funded study in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, is addressed in the draft legislation in several key sections, including Patient and Caregiver Engagement in Drug Development, Data Sharing and Clinical Trial Modernization.

Said Egge: "The Alzheimer's Association appreciates the steadfast support of the Committee, the bipartisan effort required to develop this legislation and the collaborative spirit in which the Committee has worked. Alzheimer's disease is a triple threat, with soaring prevalence, lack of treatment and enormous costs – to individuals and to our nation's federal budget – and this legislation is another step in the fight to end Alzheimer's."

The Association also underscored its support for identifying additional partnership opportunities with the private sector and facilitating collaborative efforts to enhance identification of risk factors and early biomarkers, a key action item in the national Alzheimer's plan that was not included in the 21st Century CURES draft legislation.

"The Alzheimer's Association encourages the Committee to continue to pursue the critical priorities outlined in the national Alzheimer's plan alongside its important work on the 21st Century CURES legislation. These combined efforts will go a long way to ensure that we are addressing the Alzheimer's epidemic holistically and with the urgency it requires," said Egge.

Since 2005, the Association has partnered with the National Institute on Aging, the National Institute of Bioimaging and Bioengineering, the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute of

Neurological Disorders and Stroke, the National Institute of Nursing Research and the National Institute on Drug Abuse on the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI.) ADNI seeks to find more sensitive and accurate methods to detect Alzheimer's disease at earlier stages and mark its progress through biomarkers.

If nothing is done to change the trajectory of Alzheimer's, as many as 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's disease by 2050 and annual costs will exceed \$1.1 trillion, creating an enormous strain on families, the healthcare system and the federal budget. As the baby boomers age, near-term costs for caring for those with Alzheimer's will balloon with Medicare and Medicaid covering more than two-thirds of the costs for care.

Earlier this year, the Association released [*Changing the Trajectory of Alzheimer's Disease: How a Treatment by 2025 Saves Lives and Dollars*](#), which calculated that a treatment introduced in 2025 that delays the onset of Alzheimer's by five years would reduce the number of individuals affected by the disease by 5.7 million by mid-century and save all payers, including Medicare, Medicaid and families, more than \$220 billion within the first five years.

For more information about Alzheimer's disease, visit alz.org.

Alzheimer's Association®

The Alzheimer's Association is the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's 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 alz.org.

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