ADVISORY COUNCIL TO NATIONAL ALZHEIMER’S PROJECT ACT
ISSUES RECOMMENDATIONS & ADDRESSES FUNDING

Alzheimer’s Association Statement

CHICAGO, MARCH 10, 2015 – With 10 years left to reach the primary goal of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease, the Advisory Council on Research, Care and Services for the National Alzheimer’s Project shared recommendations for ensuring a strategic and productive update to the plan in spring 2015 with Congress and Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Sylvia Burwell. A key component of the recommendations is leveraging the professional judgment budget established by the recently passed Alzheimer’s Accountability Act (H.R. 4351/S. 2192) to ensure adequate funding for Alzheimer’s research.

“As the only cause of death among the top 10 in the nation without a way to prevent, stop or even slow its progress, it is imperative Alzheimer’s receives bold increases in science-driven funding,” said Harry Johns, President and CEO of the Alzheimer’s Association and member of the Advisory Council. “These recommendations call for federal research funding sufficient to meet the national plan goal to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer’s by 2025, concluding that level is at least $2 billion per year.”

Fully incorporated in the fiscal year 2015 funding bill, the Alzheimer’s Accountability Act ensures Congress will receive a professional judgment budget from National Institutes of Health (NIH) scientists outlining the state of Alzheimer’s research and the most promising opportunities. Alzheimer’s Association grassroots advocates and staff held thousands of congressional meetings to secure support for the Alzheimer’s Accountability Act since the bill’s introduction. While the Alzheimer’s Association and its sister organization, the Alzheimer’s Impact Movement, were the only two organizations to endorse and work to advance the Alzheimer’s Accountability Act, the legislation received strong, bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate.

Other recommendations from the public members of the Advisory Council included improving clinical care for persons living with dementia and ensuring quality of life and quality of care for persons living with advanced dementia and their families across care settings. Recognizing the various benefits of establishing a care plan, the recommendation includes a specific call for the Centers for Medicare and Medicare Services (CMS) to redesign Medicare coverage to encourage support care planning, as well as diagnosis and active referral to long-term services.

The Alzheimer’s Association report, Changing the Trajectory of Alzheimer’s Disease: How a Treatment by 2025 Saves Lives and Dollars, released last month takes an in-depth look at the potential lives saved and positive economic impact if a hypothetical treatment that effectively delays the onset of Alzheimer’s disease is discovered and made available to Americans by 2025. The report
shows that the U.S. could save $220 billion within the first five years of a treatment for Alzheimer’s disease being introduced. According to the Trajectory Report, if the federal government were to invest $2 billion per year, as recommended by the scientific community, then it would recoup its investment within the first three years after a treatment became available.

For more information on Alzheimer’s disease, visit alz.org.

**Alzheimer’s Association**
The Alzheimer’s Association is the world’s leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer’s disease care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer’s through the advancement of research; provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer’s. Visit [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) or call 800-272-3900.

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