FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION STATEMENT
People of the State of New York vs. Actavis and Forest Laboratories

CHICAGO, February 17, 2015 – As the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's disease care, support and research, the Alzheimer’s Association has a long-held and firm belief that people with Alzheimer's and other dementias should have affordable access to treatments available today as well as to prevention and effective treatments in the future.

Our mission requires that we advocate for both the immediate interests of those with Alzheimer's disease and their families as well as the interests of those who will develop the disease in future years. Chief among these longer term priorities is to accelerate the development of much more effective treatments and prevention for Alzheimer's and related dementias. The tension between these dual goals has been highlighted recently by the recent announcement by Actavis that it will no longer sell Namenda 5 mg and 10 mg immediate-release (IR) tablets as of Fall 2014 and, in their place, to make available Namenda XR, a once-daily, extended-release formulation.

The biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries play an indispensable role in the development of such treatments. Industry contributions include putting at risk extremely large financial investments in an attempt to successfully develop such compounds. To the extent intellectual property policies and their interpretation introduce uncertainty, these very important private sector investments may be curtailed, risking delay to delivering new treatments to those with Alzheimer's.

On the other hand, industry has it within its power to employ strategies that allow an orderly transition from branded to generic drugs for patients seeking a lower cost alternative due to their financial and other circumstances. A balance between the two alternatives will best serve the patients living with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.

The Alzheimer’s Association believes that a "hard switch" can be a harmful practice for patients, therefore, policies should be considered to bound its application. However, we are likewise committed, based on our concern for both our current and future constituents, to considering and potentially supporting, proposed changes to current intellectual property policies in order to ensure the maintenance of a robust drug development ecosystem. These issues are highly significant and quite complex. The Alzheimer's Association believes, in pursuit of the interests of our constituents, that policymakers should take considerable care when altering intellectual property regimes and their application due to the risk of deterring future private investments in Alzheimer's treatment and prevention development. This is an ecosystem that requires public, philanthropic, and substantial private investment for success.

About the 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. Visit www.alz.org or call 800.272.3900.