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MORE THAN 5 MILLION AMERICANS HAVE A FATAL DISEASE, AND IT’S NOT EBOLA

Alzheimer’s Association Reacts to President Obama’s Funding Request

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 7, 2014 – Today, Harry Johns, president and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association, released the following statement in reaction to President Obama’s request this week for more than $6 billion in additional funding to combat Ebola:

"After already making more than $1 billion available to fight the spread of Ebola both at home and abroad, earlier this week the President requested more than $6 billion in additional funding to combat this disease. In contrast, the Administration requested no new funds in this year’s budget to combat Alzheimer’s – an even more deadly disease, which cannot be prevented, cured or even slowed, and which will result in an estimated 500,000 Americans dying this year. Ebola is clearly a very serious disease, and it certainly warrants a strong and serious response from our government. The same is even more true for Alzheimer’s, and yet we have not seen anything close to the same urgent response.

There are currently more than 5 million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease, and that number is poised to grow to as many as 16 million by 2050 if we do not change the trajectory of the disease. Alzheimer's is the country's most expensive condition, costing the nation $214 billion in 2014. Yet for every $26,500 Medicare and Medicaid spend on caring for individuals with Alzheimer's, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) spends only $100 on Alzheimer's research.

To be very clear, the point is not to ignore or underfund Ebola in favor of Alzheimer’s. The point is that this vividly demonstrates that our country can take quick and strong action to combat a deadly disease. When President Obama’s $6.2 billion request is considered, I urge Congress to also weigh whether our nation has adequately responded to the Alzheimer’s crisis and, if they agree we have not, to act with equal urgency to increase Alzheimer’s research to the levels deemed necessary by leading scientific experts to end this devastating, deadly and extremely costly disease."

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. For more information, visit alz.org.

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