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Alzheimer’s Association and Alzheimer’s Impact Movement Statement on Medicaid Reform Proposals

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 22, 2017 – The Alzheimer’s Association and the Alzheimer’s Impact Movement are concerned about recent proposals to overhaul Medicaid. Medicaid’s commitment to institutional care is critical for those living with Alzheimer’s and other dementias and should be preserved through any proposed changes to the Medicaid program.

Today, there are an estimated 5.5 million Americans living with Alzheimer’s. More than one in four seniors with Alzheimer’s and other dementias are currently on Medicaid, which pays for nursing home care and other long-term services and supports. As the number of people with Alzheimer’s may nearly triple by 2050, Medicaid will play an increasingly important role in providing coverage.

Already the nation’s most expensive disease, Alzheimer’s will cost $259 billion in 2017 - $175 billion of which comes in direct cost to Medicare and Medicaid. By 2025, 24 states will see Medicaid spending on people with Alzheimer’s increase at least 40 percent, before inflation. And by 2050, total Medicaid spending on those with Alzheimer’s will total an estimated $188 billion (in today’s dollars).

Alzheimer’s is the only leading cause of death in the U.S. that cannot be prevented, slowed or cured. It is a devastating and fatal disease. We urge Congress, the Administration, and states to ensure people with Alzheimer’s and other dementias continue to have access to quality care through Medicaid.

Alzheimer’s Association
The Alzheimer’s Association is the 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.

Alzheimer’s Impact Movement
The Alzheimer’s Impact Movement (AIM) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy organization working in strategic partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association. AIM advocates for policies to overcome Alzheimer’s disease, including increased investment in research, improved care and support, and development of approaches to reduce the risk of developing dementia. For more information, visit www.alzimpact.org.

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