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**AMERICA'S MOST EXPENSIVE DISEASE:
AT CRITICAL HOUSE HEARING, ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION
CALLS FOR URGENCY WITH ALZHEIMER'S COSTS
PROJECTED TO EXCEED \$1 TRILLION**

On Behalf of 5 Million Americans Living with Alzheimer's, the Association Calls on Congress to Support an Additional \$300 Million for Alzheimer's Research Funding in FY 2016 Appropriations Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 29, 2015 – Robert Egge, executive vice president of Government Affairs for the Alzheimer's Association, testified before the House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies today regarding fiscal year 2016 appropriations for Alzheimer's-related research and activities. In his testimony, Egge projected costs from Alzheimer's disease, already America's most expensive disease according to the *New England Journal of Medicine*, will exceed \$1 trillion by 2050 if nothing is done to alter its trajectory.

Alzheimer's was the only disease represented at today's House Appropriations hearing that is a leading cause of death in the U.S., but doesn't yet have a medical solution to prevent, cure or slow its progression. During his testimony, Egge stressed the need for more research funding to make the treatment advances seen by other diseases.

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

Egge also underscored the light at the end of the tunnel that exists for Alzheimer's patients and their families if Congress reaffirms their commitment to the goal of the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease* – to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's by 2025.

"For every \$26,000 Medicare and Medicaid spend caring for individuals with Alzheimer's, NIH spends only \$100 on Alzheimer's research. Scientists fundamentally believe that we have the ideas, the technology and the will to develop new Alzheimer's interventions, but that progress depends on a prioritized scientific agenda and on the resources necessary to carry out the scientific strategy for both discovery and translation for therapeutic development," said Egge. "The Alzheimer's Association urges Congress to support an additional \$300 million for research activities and priorities included in the national Alzheimer's plan."

Earlier this year, the Association released [*Changing the Trajectory of Alzheimer's Disease: How a Treatment by 2025 Saves Lives and Dollars*](#), which determined 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.

The full witness list for today's hearing can be found [HERE](#).

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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