



the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

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Contact: **Kelly Hauer**
Executive Director
319.294.9699
Kelly.Hauer@alz.org

President Obama signs landmark legislation laying the foundation for a national Alzheimer strategy

On January 4, 2011 President Obama signed the National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) into law. NAPA creates for the first time a coordinated national strategy to confront one of America's most feared and costly diseases, a disease that will only plague more baby boomers as they age. The National Alzheimer's Project Act will focus government efforts and ensure that appropriate resources are maximized and leveraged to find better treatments, a means of prevention, and ample care and supportive services for the millions of families who with the challenges of this disease every day. Given the scale of the Alzheimer epidemic and the growing number of Americans directly affected every single day, NAPA will provide an essential framework within the government that recognizes the Alzheimer crisis is no longer emerging but is here.

The Alzheimer's Association is pleased that a much needed plan will now be put into place to address the challenges of Alzheimer's disease, currently the sixth-leading cause of death in this country. "On behalf of the 69,000 people living with this disease in Iowa alone and the multitude of Alzheimer advocates from across the state who reached out to their elected officials to tell them to support this important legislation," said Kelly Hauer, Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Association East Central Iowa Chapter, "We are grateful the nation's leaders have signaled their understanding of the fundamental need for a coordinated federal effort."

Building on the work of the Alzheimer's Association and the recommendations of the Alzheimer's Study Group, an independent, bipartisan panel created to evaluate the government's current efforts to combat the disease, NAPA will lead to the creation of a national strategic plan to overcome the Alzheimer's disease epidemic. It would also

establish an inter-agency council to work with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to give a full assessment of what needs to be done to address the threat of Alzheimer's on multiple fronts including care, research and support. NAPA ensures strategic planning and coordination of the fight against Alzheimer's across the federal government as a whole.

Alzheimer's doesn't just affect individuals – it affects and changes the lives of entire families. For the 11 million caregivers nationally, including 106,474 here in Iowa, Alzheimer's can take everything a caregiver has to give representing a serious threat to their finances, job security, and health. Beyond the human impact on families, the economic burden - with total care costs escalating from \$172 billion today to more than \$1 trillion by 2050 – is significant as well.

Local Alzheimer advocates looking to further their involvement are encouraged to join the Alzheimer's Association as they participate in the Iowa Day at the Hill on Monday, February 7, 2011. Registration and additional details can be found at www.alz.org/eci.

Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer care, support, advocacy, 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 www.alz.org/eci.

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