



the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thursday, July 22, 2010

CONGRESSMAN BRALEY SUPPORTS COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S PLAN

Waterloo, IA – Congressman Braley signed on to legislation to address the looming Alzheimer's disease epidemic. The "*National Alzheimer's Project Act*" (S. 3036/H.R. 4689) creates a National Alzheimer's Project Office at the Department of Health and Human Services and an inter-agency Advisory Council that is responsible for creating a national plan to confront the escalating crisis.

The Alzheimer's Association commends Congressman Braley for his recognition of the growing threat of Alzheimer's disease. "Currently, 69,000 people in Iowa are afflicted by Alzheimer's disease. The number of people in their families and communities affected by their struggle is immeasurable. This epidemic is only going to grow, and the need for information, guidance, support, and services is paramount. *Now* is the time for a comprehensive federal plan to tackle the issues that cut across government agencies and services," said Kelly Hauer, Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Association East Central Iowa Chapter. "We urge other Iowa Congressmen to sign on to NAPA as soon as possible," Hauer added.

Today there is no one government entity whose sole purpose is to mount a full campaign against Alzheimer's disease which, without the discovery and development of effective treatments, is poised to strike 10 million baby boomers over the coming years. Building on the recommendations offered by the Alzheimer's Study Group (ASG), an independent, bipartisan panel created to evaluate the government's current efforts to combat the disease, this legislation creates a National Alzheimer's Project Office at the

Department of Health and Human Services and an inter-agency Advisory Council that is responsible for creating a national plan to confront the escalating crisis. Drawing on the expertise residing in various government agencies as well as individuals living with the disease, caregivers, providers and other stakeholders, this office would provide strategic planning and coordination for the fight against Alzheimer's across the federal government as a whole.

In addition to the devastating impact on families, Alzheimer's also threatens the nation's health care system because of its significant costs. According to the Alzheimer's Association's *2010 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures* report, there are nearly 11 million Alzheimer and dementia caregivers nationwide providing 12.5 billion hours of unpaid care valued at a staggering \$144 billion. This national figure includes 106,174 Alzheimer and dementia caregivers right here in Iowa who provide a caregiver contribution of \$1,394,406,454.

The "*National Alzheimer's Project Act*" addresses the fundamental need for a coordinated federal approach to confront one of America's most feared and costly diseases.

About the Alzheimer's Association

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

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