



CENTRAL ILLINOIS CHAPTER

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Media Release

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For Immediate Release

From ACT to ACTION: We Need Your VOICE **Alzheimer's Association Plans Session for Community Input**

Due to the work of thousands of Alzheimer's Association advocates, President Obama signed the National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) into law on January 4, 2011. This new law requires the federal government to create a National Alzheimer's Plan to combat Alzheimer's disease. Advocates were crucial in the process of moving this legislation into law, and their voices and experiences are essential for its successful implementation.

"The National Alzheimer's Plan will be our country's roadmap to address Alzheimer's disease," said Nikki Vulgaris, Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Association – Central Illinois Chapter. "For it to be effective, we must ensure that the federal government understands the challenges our families face each day as we fight Alzheimer's."

The Central Illinois Chapter will host a NAPA Input Session, Saturday, August 13th, at the Chapter office, 606 W. Glen Avenue, Peoria, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Concerned residents should attend this session, including persons with Alzheimer's disease, family and professional caregivers, medical community, nursing home administrators, and legislatures. The program is free and open to the public but registration is required by calling 681.1100 or 800.272.3900.

Throughout August, the Alzheimer's Association is continuing to gather feedback in communities across the country with input sessions. Feedback received at these sessions will be presented in a report to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius. These sessions are an opportunity to give direct feedback to decision makers in local communities and in Washington. Individuals can also provide input at the NAPA website: <http://napa.alz.org/category/events>.

The Alzheimer's Association is encouraging area residents to share their experiences with Alzheimer's disease to ensure the National Alzheimer's Plan delivers real, true benefits that address the challenges faced every day by millions of Americans.

The Alzheimer's Association – Central Illinois Chapter, is a donor supported, not-for-profit health organization serving 20 counties in northern, central and west central Illinois. Its three office locations – Dixon, Peoria, and Quincy – provide educational and supportive services to help people with Alzheimer's and their caregivers understand and deal with the disease and its impact on their lives. Core programs include information and referral, care consultations, education, support groups, and safety services. Disease, caregiver and support information can be found by visiting the agency website at www.alz.org/illinoiscentral.

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