



the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION LAUDS PASSAGE OF BRALEY AMENDMENT

Alzheimer's Association Statement

Washington, D.C., July 31, 2009 – The Alzheimer's Association applauds the efforts of Representative Bruce Braley (D-IA) and the House Energy and Commerce Committee to advance the quality of health care for our nation's most vulnerable populations. "Passage of Congressman Braley's (D-IA) amendment is a victory for America's most vulnerable and the entire health care system," said Robert Egge, Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy at the Alzheimer's Association. "The Alzheimer's Association is grateful for his leadership and his commitment to this critical effort."

Rep. Bruce Braley (D-IA) successfully offered an amendment to the health reform bill being considered by the House Energy and Commerce Committee that will benefit people with Alzheimer's disease. The amendment directs the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), to develop quality indicators for the care of people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

Currently, there are no accepted quality indicators for care for the more than 5 million Americans with Alzheimer's and other dementias. Although AHRQ has consistently listed Alzheimer's disease and other dementias among its priority conditions, the development of quality indicators has lagged. Representative Braley's amendment is consistent with the recommendations of both the Institutes of Medicine and the Alzheimer's Study Group that AHRQ develop quality indicators as well as a plan for implementation and measurement of the quality of care provided to these patients.

Alzheimer's disease and other dementias are among the most costly and devastating health epidemics facing our country. According to the Alzheimer's Association's *2009 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures* report, total healthcare costs are more than three times higher for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias than for other people the same age without the disease. If nothing is done to stop this disease, the government will spend nearly \$20 trillion to care for those with Alzheimer's between today and the middle of the century.

Any health reform legislation must take action to start addressing the staggering ramifications of this disease. The Alzheimer's Association is committed to working with Rep. Braley and Congress to ensure that this important measure remains in health care reform legislation as it moves through the legislative process.

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.