

**NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S PROJECT ACT (NAPA)
(S.3036 / H.R. 4689)**

Congressional Request

Please cosponsor the *National Alzheimer's Project Act* (S.3036 / H.R. 4689) that will establish a National Alzheimer's Project Office and inter-agency Advisory Council responsible for creating a national plan to overcome the Alzheimer's disease crisis.

Talking Points

In 2050, up to 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's disease, creating an enormous strain on the health care system, families, and the federal budget. Yet there is no plan on how to deal with this looming crisis.

If enacted, the *National Alzheimer's Project Act* will:

- Launch a campaign within the federal government to overcome Alzheimer's disease.
- Establish an inter-agency Advisory Council to create a coordinated National Alzheimer's Disease Plan.
- Comprehensively address the federal government's efforts on Alzheimer's research, care, institutional services, and home- and community-based programs.
- Accelerate the development of treatments that would prevent, halt or reverse the course of Alzheimer's disease.
- Decrease health disparities by ensuring ethnic and racial populations at higher risk for Alzheimer's receive much-needed care and services.

Background

In 2007, congressional leaders, deeply concerned about the devastating and escalating impact of Alzheimer's disease upon the nation, identified the need for an independent, non-partisan Alzheimer's Study Group (ASG). The ASG task force developed the Alzheimer's National Strategic Plan that included a key recommendation to establish an outcomes-oriented, project focused Office within the federal government, that is called for in the National Alzheimer's Project Act.

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, the total payments for health and long-term care services for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias will amount to \$172 billion from all sources in 2010. The average per person Medicaid payments were 9 times higher; Medicare payments were 3 times higher, and private insurance were 26

percent higher for older people with Alzheimer's and other dementias compared to other older people. If nothing is done to stop this disease, by mid-century as many as 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's disease. America simply cannot afford this human, social and economic burden.

The *National Alzheimer's Project Act* will establish a National Alzheimer's Project Office and inter-agency Advisory Council to create a coordinated national plan for Alzheimer's research, care, and related support services. The Project Office will coordinate and evaluate Alzheimer's efforts across the federal government, including research, clinical care, institutional, and home- and community-based programs and their outcomes.

The Director of the Project Office will be able to draw on the expertise residing in various government agencies through the Advisory Council, and will provide strategic planning and coordination for the fight against Alzheimer's disease across the federal government. The Director, appointed by the President, will provide a report to Congress annually, including an evaluation of all nationally and federally funded efforts in Alzheimer's research, clinical care, institutional, and home- and community-based programs and their outcomes as well as an updated national plan.

The Alzheimer's Association respectfully requests cosponsorship and support of all members of Congress on this non-controversial legislation. To cosponsor the bill, please contact Sarah Kyle in the office of Senator Bayh at 224-5623 or Jillian Oberfield in the office of Rep. Edward Markey at 225-3836. For more information, contact Mary Richards, Managing Director of Federal Affairs, at Mary.Richards@alz.org.