

FEDERAL PRIORITIES 2010

Alzheimer's disease is a pivotal public health issue. Congress must address the challenges the disease poses and take bold action to confront this epidemic now.

1. Increase funding for Alzheimer research

S. 1492/H.R. 3286

Solving the Alzheimer's crisis requires addressing the chronic underinvestment in Alzheimer's disease research. Only through such research will treatments – and eventually a cure – be found. The *Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act* would increase the federal government's commitment to fighting Alzheimer's disease through research, education, and care. Specifically, it would authorize \$2 billion per year in research funding for Alzheimer's disease at the National Institutes of Health and would establish the disease as a research priority of the National Institute on Aging.

2. Improve detection, diagnosis, and care planning

TBD

In order to provide better medical care and outcomes for individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementias, possible dementia must first be detected, the disease must then be diagnosed, care must be planned, and the diagnosis must be noted in the patient's medical record. The *Alzheimer's Detection, Diagnosis, Care, And Planning (ADD-CAP) Act* would provide Medicare reimbursement for a bundled package of services to increase the detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias – and provide access to information and support for newly-diagnosed patients and their families.

3. Develop a coordinated federal strategic plan to address Alzheimer's disease

S. 3036/H.R. 4689

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. The *National Alzheimer's Project Act* would launch a campaign within the federal government to overcome Alzheimer's disease. An inter-agency Advisory Council would be established to create a coordinated National Alzheimer's Disease Plan to comprehensively address the federal government's efforts on Alzheimer's research, care, institutional services, and home- and community-based programs.
