



# 2021 FEDERAL POLICY PRIORITIES

Alzheimer's is a growing crisis for our families and the economy. The federal government must address the challenges the disease poses and take bold action to confront this crisis now.

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# 1

## BUILD A PATH TO BETTER DEMENTIA CARE

Caring for an individual with Alzheimer's or another dementia poses unique challenges. Comprehensive dementia care has been shown to reduce costs while providing better quality care. Unfortunately, dementia care management programs have not developed within the current Medicare fee-for-service system. The bipartisan *Comprehensive Care for Alzheimer's Act (S. 1125 / H.R. 2517)* would ask the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) to test a different payment structure for dementia care management. This important bill has the potential to streamline today's complicated health care maze for people living with dementia and their caregivers.

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# 2

## SUPPORT EQUITY IN ALZHEIMER'S CLINICAL TRIALS

Alzheimer's and other dementia disproportionately affect older Black and Hispanic Americans compared to older Whites. In fact, Black Americans are twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's, and Hispanic Americans are one and a half times more likely to develop the disease. Yet much of the Alzheimer's research to date has not included sufficient numbers of Black, Hispanic, Asian or Native Americans to be representative of the U.S. population. The underrepresentation of these populations not only hinders the ability of researchers to understand these health disparities, it also restricts their knowledge of how an approved therapy or diagnostic may affect the populations most likely to need the treatment. The bipartisan *Equity in Neuroscience and Alzheimer's Clinical Trials (ENACT) Act (H.R. 3085 / S. 1548)*, would increase the participation of underrepresented populations in Alzheimer's and other dementia clinical trials by expanding education and outreach to these populations, encouraging the diversity of clinical trial staff and reducing participation burden, among other priorities.



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## 3 INCREASE THE COMMITMENT TO ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH AND PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE

More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, and by mid-century, the number of people with the disease is set to nearly triple. Already the most expensive disease in America with costs reaching an estimated \$355 billion in 2021, these costs are projected to more than quadruple to \$1.1 trillion by mid-century, with two-thirds paid by Medicare and Medicaid.

- » Consistent with the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease*, Congress has bolstered support for research funding at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Nevertheless, current funding levels continue to fall short of the total funding scientists and the U.S. Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services believe is needed to meet the goal of finding a treatment or cure for Alzheimer's and other dementias by 2025. Congress must continue its commitment to the fight against Alzheimer's and other dementias by increasing funding for Alzheimer's research by an additional \$289 million in fiscal year 2022.
- » The bipartisan *Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act (P.L. 115-406)* directs the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to strengthen the public health infrastructure across the country by implementing effective Alzheimer's interventions focused on public health issues such as increasing early detection and diagnosis, reducing risk, and preventing avoidable hospitalizations. The *BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act* will accomplish this by establishing Alzheimer's and Related Dementias Public Health Centers of Excellence; providing funding to state, local, and tribal public health departments; and increasing data analysis and timely reporting. To ensure the law's successful implementation, Congress must fully fund the \$20 million authorized in the law for CDC in fiscal year 2022.

## 4 SUPPORT ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVERS

Although often rewarding, the intense responsibilities of providing care for someone living with dementia often take a toll on the caregiver. Providing that care can be an emotionally, physically and financially draining role. Yet as a nation, we haven't done enough to support the 11 million Americans providing this unpaid care. The bipartisan *Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act (S. 56/H.R.1474)* would provide much needed relief for our nation's caregivers. *The Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act* would provide grants to expand training and support services for unpaid caregivers of people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia. These grants would cover valuable training and services including caregiver support groups, group education and skills-training sessions.