CONGRESS PASSES 21ST CENTURY CURES ACT TO ADVANCE INNOVATIVE MEDICAL RESEARCH FOR ALZHEIMER’S, OTHER DISEASES

Alzheimer’s Association Celebrates Legislation to Advance Brain Research

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 7, 2016 – Today, the Alzheimer’s Association is celebrating the passage of the 21st Century Cures Act, important legislation that supports healthcare innovation to accelerate the discovery, development and delivery of new treatments and cures for all diseases, including Alzheimer’s and other dementias. The bill, which the Alzheimer’s Association strongly supported, passed in both chambers and is expected to be signed into law by President Obama in the coming days.

In part, the 21st Century Cures Act directs $1.6 billion to the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative spread over the next 10 years. The BRAIN Initiative, established in 2013, works to accelerate the development and implementation of innovative technologies, allowing researchers new ways to treat, cure, and prevent brain diseases like Alzheimer’s. The 21st Century Cures Act also secures an additional $1.5 billion over 10 years for the Precision Medicine Initiative. Aimed at driving technology-enabled personalized medicine, the Precision Medicine Initiative seeks to advance research to accelerate biomedical discoveries and provide clinicians with new information to select treatments that work best in individual patients.

“The Alzheimer’s Association has been proud to support 21st Century Cures Act since its introduction because of its potential to accelerate Alzheimer’s disease research projects at the National Institutes of Health,” Harry Johns, Alzheimer’s Association President and CEO. “Cures will further spur innovation in Alzheimer’s disease research and also streamline the regulatory process to ensure that those treatments can be available to patients as soon as possible.”

Another important inclusion in the 21st Century Cures Act is the inclusion of the Ensuring Useful Research Expenditures is Key for Alzheimer’s (EUREKA) Act sponsored by Senators Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Brian Schatz (D-HI) in the Senate and Congressmen John Duncan (R-TN) and Steve Cohen (D-TN) in the House. The inclusion of the EUREKA Prize Competitions in the 21st Century Cures Act will help to advance research breakthroughs for Alzheimer’s disease, and encourage public-private partnerships. The Alzheimer’s Association has supported this legislation and Senator Wicker spoke to our advocates about the bill at the Alzheimer’s Association Advocacy Forum.

“The passage of the 21st Century Cures Act and the inclusion of the EUREKA Prize Competitions is another victory for the Alzheimer’s community,” said Robert Egge, Alzheimer’s
Association Chief Public Policy Officer. “Innovative policies such as these will help ensure new medical discoveries and bring cures to the market quickly and efficiently.”

Today, more than 5 million Americans are living with the disease, and that number could rise as high as 16 million by 2050. Alzheimer’s is the most expensive disease in America at an estimated cost of $236 billion annually, and is the only leading cause of death in the U.S. that cannot be prevented, cured or even slowed.

The Alzheimer’s Association worked with the House Energy and Commerce Committee on development of the 21st Century Cures Act since it was first introduced by Congressman Fred Upton (R-MI), Congresswoman Diana DeGette (D-CO), and Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and worked with Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) in the Senate. Our advocates also worked with Senator Wicker to build support for the EUREKA Act.

For more information on Alzheimer’s disease, visit alz.org.

**Alzheimer’s Association**

The Alzheimer’s Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's 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 [alz.org](http://alz.org).

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