



the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

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**THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES RELEASES
INITIAL DRAFT OF NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S PLAN**

- Alzheimer's Association Statement -

Washington, D.C., February 22, 2012 – The release of the first draft of the National Alzheimer's Plan is another positive step toward the nation's first ever strategic plan for Alzheimer's. Comprehensive in scope, the draft plan addresses issues that are important to the Alzheimer's community including developing new treatments that prevent and effectively treat the disease, delivering much needed support for families, and enhancing care quality and effectiveness.

The release of today's draft plan comes following the Obama Administration's important announcement earlier this month of committing new resources in the fight against Alzheimer's – an initial investment that is necessary to begin to address the broad impact of this disease.

As this draft plan is revised, the Alzheimer's Association urges the Administration to specify the level of resource commitment that will be needed to meet the goal to prevent and effectively treat the disease by 2025. The Alzheimer's Association values the initial plan's attention to evaluation and assessment, but looks forward to moving quickly from assessment of current efforts and programs to action for the growing number of families facing the disease.

With engagement from the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care and Services and the commitment of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Alzheimer's Association looks forward to a final National Alzheimer's Plan later this spring that accelerates government efforts, indicates the future commitments that will be needed, and encourages public-private partnerships to change the trajectory of one of the nation's most feared diseases.

The Alzheimer's Association remains steadfast in its commitment to support the Administration's implementation of the National Alzheimer's Project Act, passed by Congress on a unanimous, bipartisan basis.

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Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is the world's 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 www.alz.org.