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**NEW REPORT ADDS TO MOUNTING EVIDENCE THAT U.S. IS
UNPREPARED FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE EPIDEMIC**

*Only 22 States Require Dementia Training for Nursing Home Staff
Despite 64% of Nursing Home Residents Having Alzheimer's or Another Dementia*

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 24, 2015 – The Alzheimer's Association today said that the Justice in Aging report, *Training to Serve People with Dementia: Is Our Health Care System Ready?*, adds to the mounting evidence that America is unprepared for the Alzheimer's disease epidemic, which will only intensify with the aging baby boomers. According to the Alzheimer's Association *2015 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures* report, there are currently more than five million Americans living with Alzheimer's, the most common form of dementia, and prevalence is set to triple in just over a generation.

Justice in Aging, a nonprofit organization advocating on behalf of seniors, found that professionals responsible for Alzheimer's patient care – such as registered nurses (RN), certified nursing assistants (CNA) and emergency medical technicians (EMT) – are encountering individuals with dementia with increasing frequency, yet many receive little or no training in the special needs of individuals with cognitive impairment. Inconsistencies and inadequacies uncovered by the Justice in Aging report include:

- Only 22 states require dementia training for staff of nursing homes even though, according to the Alzheimer's Association's *2015 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures*, 64 percent of all Medicare beneficiaries residing in nursing homes had Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. The majority of states that do require training do so only for those working in Alzheimer's special care units.
- Although an estimated six in 10 people with Alzheimer's will wander, only 10 states require dementia training for law enforcement.
- Only two states require dementia training for registered nurses, licensed practical nurses or licensed vocational nurses.

“The Justice in Aging report is a wakeup call for policymakers,” said Matthew Baumgart, senior director of public policy with the Alzheimer's Association. “These findings demonstrate that we are woefully unequipped to deal with the growing Alzheimer's crisis as the baby boomers age and prevalence of those living with this disease triples. Policymakers must improve existing training requirements and patient care standards throughout our health care, long-term care and emergency response systems.”

Nancy Roy of Maine tried to care for her mother, Bernie, by herself but recognized that Bernie needed more help than she could provide. Roy found a facility that requires annual dementia training and her mother has reaped the benefits: “Meals are a really great experience, because the nurses and staff sit with the residents and call everyone by name. They recognized that my mother needed to be on pureed foods before I did, because someone always eats with her.”

“The Alzheimer’s Association, with its more than 70 chapters nationwide, is committed to ensuring the best possible care and support for the more than five million people currently living with this disease and their 15 million unpaid caregivers. A model dementia training policy is in development to address many of the issues raised in the Justice in Aging report,” said Baumgart.

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

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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.