

## **State Priorities – 2009**

**STATES MUST CONFRONT ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE NOW TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND RETIREMENT SECURITY OF GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS AND THE ECONOMIC STABILITY OF STATES.**

**WE CALL ON STATE LEADERS TO TAKE BOLD ACTION TO CONFRONT THE ALZHEIMER EPIDEMIC BY:**

### **1. Ensuring access to Medicaid for dementia care.**

- Preserve the Medicaid safety net for long-term care and ensure that the program meets the needs of individuals with dementia.
- Medicaid is the primary governmental source of long-term care funding for individuals with dementia. In states where Medicaid covers home and community based services, about 40% of people receiving these Medicaid services have dementia.

### **2. Improving the quality of dementia care.**

- States have the power to ensure quality care is provided by regulated long-term care industries.
  - Mandate dementia training for long-term care staff
  - Disclose dementia care service options
  - Enforce existing dementia care regulations

### **3. Developing a comprehensive State Government Alzheimer's Disease Plan.**

- State Government Alzheimer's Disease Plans create the infrastructure and accountability necessary to build dementia-capable programs for the growing number of people with Alzheimer's disease.
- A plan enables a state to address a range of issues collectively, including:
  - dementia capable support services for people at all stages of the disease;
  - quantifying the number of individuals with Alzheimer's in the state;
  - quality of long-term care;
  - Medicaid coverage of long-term care for those who cannot afford it;
  - availability of diagnostic services; and,
  - safety of persons who wander.