

Federal Legislative Priorities – 2009

111th Congress, 1st Session

The Alzheimer's Association calls on Congress to act now to address the grave challenge Alzheimer's disease poses to American families and to the federal government.

1. Health Care Reform

Position: Health care reform legislation must improve care for persons with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers.

Action:

- Pass health care reform that:
 - Ensures Medicare care coordination services include the cognitively impaired by incorporating the *RE-Aligning Care Act* (S. 1004/H.R. 2307) and the *Independence at Home Act of 2009* (S. 1131/H.R. 2560).
 - Improves long-term services and supports by enacting provisions, such as those found in the *Community Living Assistance Services and Supports Act* (CLASS Act) (S. 697/H.R. 1721) and *Empowered at Home of 2009* (S. 434/H.R. 2688).
 - Provides access to adequate and affordable health insurance for individuals with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease (under age 65) by supporting the *Ending the Medicare Disability Waiting Period Act of 2009* (S.700/H.R. 1708) and similar provisions in other health reform proposals.

2. Research

Position: Alzheimer research funding must be significantly increased.

Action:

- Pass the *Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act of 2009* (S. 1492/H.R. 3286), authorizing \$2 billion in research funding for Alzheimer's disease.

3. Federal Alzheimer's Disease Strategic Plan

Position: Alzheimer's disease efforts must be driven by a specific, actionable and coordinated federal strategic plan.

Action:

- Pass the *National Alzheimer's Project Act* (S. 1555/House bill TBD), launching an integrated federal campaign to overcome Alzheimer's disease.

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer 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 policy information, email advocate@alz.org or call (202) 393-7737 and ask for a member of our federal policy team.