

Congress OKs \$400M Federal Alzheimer's Disease Research Increase

On May 5, a \$400 million increase in Alzheimer's research funding was signed into law by President Trump, increasing federal funding at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to nearly \$1.4 billion. After years of stagnant funding, this is the second year in a row the Alzheimer's Association's request for historic funding increases has been acted on by federal leaders. The Alzheimer's Association, the Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM) and its nationwide network of advocates, applauded Congress for hearing their call and taking action in the fight to end Alzheimer's.

Today, there are more than 5 million Americans living with Alzheimer's, the only disease among the top 10 that cannot be prevented, cured or even slowed. Already the nation's most expensive disease — at a cost of \$259 billion in 2017 — the Alzheimer's Association estimates that by mid-century the number of people with the disease is set to nearly triple, and the costs of Alzheimer's are projected to more than quadruple to \$1.1 trillion.

Leading experts have said a greater investment is still needed if the U.S. is to stay on the path to preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer's by 2025. Demonstrating the urgency of this crisis, the NIH Professional Judgment Budget commissioned by Congress has already recommended a \$414 million increase in spending on Alzheimer's disease research for fiscal year 2018. The Alzheimer's Association International Research Grant Program, through philanthropic support, has committed over \$385 million to more than 2,500 best-of-field grant proposals, leading to field-changing advances.

For more information or assistance with understanding and caring for people living with Alzheimer's and dementia, contact the Alzheimer's Association in your area.