

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 49

Declaring that achieving the primary goal of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease of the Department of Health and Human Services to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer’s disease by 2025 is an urgent national priority.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 6, 2017

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

RESOLUTION

Declaring that achieving the primary goal of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease of the Department of Health and Human Services to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer’s disease by 2025 is an urgent national priority.

Whereas the number of individuals in the United States with Alzheimer’s and related dementias (referred to in this preamble as “Alzheimer’s”) is as high as 5,400,000, which is more than double the number in 1980;

Whereas based on the trajectory of Alzheimer’s, as many as 16,000,000 individuals in the United States may have Alzheimer’s by 2050;

Whereas the increasing prevalence of Alzheimer's and other dementias is a global health crisis that afflicts an estimated 46,780,000 individuals worldwide as of August, 2015 and may afflict more than 131,000,000 individuals by 2050;

Whereas Alzheimer's is a leading cause of death in the United States with data indicating that more than 500,000 deaths each year are attributable to the disease;

Whereas Alzheimer's is the only disease among the top 10 causes of death in the United States without an effective means to prevent, slow, or stop;

Whereas Alzheimer's places an enormous financial strain on families, the health care system, and State and Federal budgets;

Whereas the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) and the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) are estimated to bear more than two-thirds of the total costs of this care in 2016;

Whereas a RAND Corporation study published in 2013 and commissioned by the National Institute on Aging found that Alzheimer's is the costliest disease in the United States, costing more than cancer and heart disease;

Whereas in 2015, an estimated 15,800,000 family members and friends of individuals with Alzheimer's provided those individuals with 18,100,000,000 hours of unpaid care, an amount valued at more than \$221,300,000;

Whereas Alzheimer's disease has a disproportionate impact on many populations including women, African-Americans, and Latinos;

Whereas the global cost of Alzheimer's exceeds \$818,000,000,000 each year, an amount equal to approximately 1 percent of the world's gross domestic product;

Whereas in December 2013, the G-8 nations met and adopted a political declaration supporting the goal of a cure or disease-modifying therapy for dementia by 2025 as well as collectively and significantly increasing resources committed to dementia research;

Whereas Alzheimer's takes an emotional and physical toll on caregivers that results in a higher incidence of chronic conditions, such as heart disease, cancer, and depression among caregivers;

Whereas the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease of the Department of Health and Human Services makes recommendations relating to family caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's to provide care while maintaining personal health and well-being;

Whereas the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease supports informal caregivers by—

- (1) identifying the support needs of caregivers;
- (2) developing and disseminating modes for intervention;
- (3) providing information that caregivers need, particularly in crisis situations; and
- (4) assisting caregivers in maintaining personal health and well-being;

Whereas a strong and sustained research effort is the best tool to slow the progression and ultimately prevent the onset of Alzheimer's;

Whereas while the cost to the Medicare and Medicaid programs of caring for individuals with Alzheimer’s is estimated to be \$160,000,000,000 in 2016, the United States, through the National Institutes of Health, will spend about \$991,000,000 on Alzheimer’s research in 2016;

Whereas the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Alzheimer’s Research, Care, and Services created by the National Alzheimer’s Project Act (42 U.S.C. 11225) has testified before Congress that the United States must devote at least \$2,000,000,000 each year to Alzheimer’s research to reach the goal of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer’s by 2025; and

Whereas the public members of the Advisory Council on Alzheimer’s Research, Care, and Services unanimously agree with the testimony of the Chairman regarding the amount of money required to reach the goal for 2025: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) is committed to strengthening the quality of
3 care and expanding support for individuals with Alz-
4 heimer’s disease and related dementias (referred to
5 in this resolution as “Alzheimer’s”) and family care-
6 givers of individuals with Alzheimer’s;

7 (2) declares that achieving the primary goal of
8 the National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease to
9 prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer’s by 2025 is
10 an urgent national priority;

1 (3) recognizes that bold action and considerable
2 increases in funding are necessary to meet that goal;

3 (4) encourages greater collaboration between
4 the United States and other global governments,
5 particularly the G–7 nations, to advance a global
6 Alzheimer’s and dementia research plan;

7 (5) supports innovative public-private partner-
8 ship and the pursuit of innovative financing tools,
9 incentives and other mechanisms to accelerate the
10 pursuit of disease-modifying therapies; and

11 (6) strives to—

12 (A) double the amount of funding the
13 United States spends on Alzheimer’s research
14 in fiscal year 2017; and

15 (B) develop a plan for fiscal years 2018
16 through 2021 to meet the target of the Advi-
17 sory Council on Alzheimer’s Research, Care,
18 and Services for the United States to spend
19 \$2,000,000,000 each year on Alzheimer’s re-
20 search.

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