

112TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. RES. 434

Supporting the goal of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer's disease by the year 2025, as articulated in the draft National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease from the Department of Health and Human Services.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 24 (legislative day, APRIL 23), 2012

Mr. WARNER (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. CONRAD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## RESOLUTION

Supporting the goal of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer's disease by the year 2025, as articulated in the draft National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Whereas Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States;

Whereas Alzheimer's disease is the only disease among the 10 leading causes of death in the United States that lacks a means of prevention or a cure, and the progression of which cannot be slowed;

Whereas more than 5,000,000 people in the United States suffer from Alzheimer's disease;

Whereas, in 2011, 15,200,000 family members and friends provided 17,400,000,000 hours of unpaid care valued at \$210,500,000,000 to patients with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias;

Whereas, by the year 2050, as many as 15,000,000 people in the United States will have Alzheimer's disease if scientists do not make progress in the prevention or treatment of the disease;

Whereas the Federal Government spent an estimated \$140,000,000,000 under the Medicare and Medicaid programs to care for patients with Alzheimer's disease in 2011;

Whereas spending relating to the treatment of Alzheimer's disease under the Medicare and Medicaid programs is projected to be more than \$850,000,000,000 per year, in 2012 dollars, by the year 2050;

Whereas scientists working to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease have already identified—

- (1) more than 100 genes linked to Alzheimer's disease;
- (2) biomarkers to identify the people who are at risk for Alzheimer's disease; and
- (3) other promising leads in gene, protein, and drug therapies to benefit people who have Alzheimer's disease or are at risk for developing the disease;

Whereas an emphasis on early diagnosis, workforce training, education, and support for patients and the families of patients, as well as other programs and initiatives spearheaded by State and local governments, advocacy organizations, doctors, hospitals, and long-term care facilities, are already making a difference in reducing the burden

of Alzheimer’s disease for patients, families, and communities;

Whereas the National Alzheimer’s Project Act (Public Law 111–375; 124 Stat. 4100), which Congress passed unanimously on December 15, 2010 and President Barack Obama signed into law on January 4, 2011, required the Secretary of Health and Human Services to create the first National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease, and established the Advisory Council on Alzheimer’s Research, Care, and Services to assist the Secretary of Health and Human Services in this task;

Whereas, shortly after the National Alzheimer’s Project Act was enacted, the Department of Health and Human Services created the Interagency Group on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias to inform the National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease;

Whereas, in formulating the draft National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Interagency Group on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias, and the Advisory Council on Alzheimer’s Research, Care, and Services focused on 3 main topics, long-term services and support, clinical care, and research; and

Whereas the draft National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease includes—

- (1) the bold and transformative goal of preventing and treating Alzheimer’s disease by the year 2025; and
- (2) specific performance metrics to optimize the quality and efficiency of care, expand support for patients and families, enhance public awareness and engagement, track progress, and drive improvement: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) supports the groundbreaking national goal  
3       of preventing and treating Alzheimer’s disease by  
4       the year 2025 and the other goals of the draft Na-  
5       tional Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease;

6               (2) finds that basic science, medical research,  
7       and therapy development, through enhanced re-  
8       search programs and expanded public-private part-  
9       nerships, are necessary for—

10              (A) reaching the goal of preventing and  
11              treating Alzheimer’s disease by the year 2025;  
12              and

13              (B) identifying a definitive cure for Alz-  
14              heimer’s disease;

15              (3) calls for further public awareness and un-  
16       derstanding of Alzheimer’s disease;

17              (4) supports increased assistance for people  
18       with Alzheimer’s disease and the caregivers and fam-  
19       ilies of those people; and

20              (5) encourages early diagnosis and access to  
21       high-quality care for people with Alzheimer’s disease.

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