Alzheimer’s Breakthrough Act

Between 2010 and 2050, caring for individuals with Alzheimer’s will cost American society $20 trillion – including $15 trillion to Medicare and Medicaid.

- The Medicare and Medicaid costs of caring for people with Alzheimer’s – currently an estimated $140 billion – are expected to top $800 billion (in today’s dollars) by mid-century.

- If there were a treatment that delayed onset of the disease by five years (a treatment similar to the effect of anti-cholesterol drugs on preventing heart disease), it would cut government spending on Alzheimer’s care by nearly half in 2050.

Scientists believe we are at a tipping point on Alzheimer’s research. We have the ideas, the technology and the will. But we do not have a commitment from the federal government.

- The federal government has made significant commitments to combat diseases such as heart disease, HIV/AIDS and breast cancer. As a result, death rates from these diseases have declined.

- Meanwhile, no similar commitment has been made with respect to Alzheimer’s disease. In fact, Alzheimer’s is the only one of the top 10 causes of death in America without a way to prevent, cure or even slow its progression.

The Alzheimer’s Breakthrough Act (H.R. 1897) would ensure an appropriate commitment to Alzheimer’s research. Specifically, the bill would:

- Make Alzheimer’s research a priority at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by:
  - pursuing emerging scientific and research opportunities; and
  - adopting the research recommendations from the forthcoming National Alzheimer’s Plan.

- Create public-private partnerships to develop treatments and a cure.

- Require the leadership at NIH to request the funding necessary to get the job done – or explain to Congress why they are not.

Change in Number of Deaths Between 2000 and 2008

Breast Cancer | Prostate Cancer | Heart Disease | Stroke | HIV/AIDS | Alzheimer’s Disease
---|---|---|---|---|---
-3% | -8% | -13% | -20% | -29% | 66%