The escalating Alzheimer’s epidemic has profound implications for government budgets.

- Alzheimer’s is the most expensive disease in America, costing more than heart disease and cancer.
- In 2018, caring for people with Alzheimer’s and other dementias will cost the United States an estimated $277 billion. Cumulatively between now and 2050, it will cost $20.2 trillion—two-thirds of which will be borne by Medicare and Medicaid.
- One in every 5 dollars of Medicare spending is spent on people with Alzheimer’s and other dementias.

Despite the recent increased investment in Alzheimer’s research, funding still falls short of the need.

- For fiscal year 2018, Congress provided an additional $414 million in Alzheimer’s research funding at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
- With this increase, along with previous research investments, the NIH is expected to spend $1.9 billion on Alzheimer’s research in 2018.
- However, this still means that for every $9,700 Medicare and Medicaid spend caring for people with Alzheimer’s, the NIH spends only $100 on Alzheimer’s research.

Congressional action is needed to stay on the path to discovering scientific breakthroughs.

- The National Alzheimer’s Plan has established a goal of developing preventions and effective treatments for Alzheimer’s by 2025.
- Under the Alzheimer’s Accountability Act, NIH scientists have released a Bypass Budget that outlines what is needed to reach that goal.
- Based on the targets outlined in the Bypass Budget, Congress should provide an additional $425 million in Alzheimer’s research funding in fiscal year 2019.