

Iowa Against Alzheimer's

we can stop it by 2020.

An Iowa Issue By 2020, the number of Iowans with Alzheimer's disease will rise by nearly 10 percent¹ to nearly 71,000 individuals 65 years of age and older. Nationally, 5.4 million people have Alzheimer's and the number of people living with the disease will triple in the coming decades. The national cost of caring for Alzheimer's victims will explode from \$183 billion in 2011 to an estimated \$600 billion by 2035, and a staggering \$1.2 trillion by 2050.

Currently in Iowa, 131,854 caregivers support someone living with Alzheimer's – an emotionally and physically demanding job, often unpaid and the responsibility of families. Just in Iowa, the value of unpaid care for those living with Alzheimer's totaled nearly \$2,000,000,000 (billion) in 2010 alone.² In addition, an estimated 38,207 Iowans (77% of nursing home residents) live with mild-to-severe cognitive impairment in nursing homes, receiving various levels of paid care. Alzheimer's disease is clearly an issue for our loved ones, Iowa, and our country.³

An Unacceptable Status Quo Of the 10 leading causes of death in the United States, only Alzheimer's has no cure, treatment or other means of prevention. More than \$183 billion is spent annually treating Alzheimer's in the US – more than 400 times the amount spent on finding a cure.⁴ Despite the overwhelming evidence of a coming epidemic, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) only invests about \$450 million per year researching cures and treatments of Alzheimer's – less than \$90 per person living with Alzheimer's.⁵ We should no longer accept Alzheimer's and its health and fiscal impacts as inevitable, incapable of solution. Quite simply, we should no longer live in fear; rather, we should boldly live with the American optimism that we can and will solve this crisis.

Action For the Future Together, we urge advocates, candidates and policymakers to take a leading role in this fight for a cure to Alzheimer's – on behalf of Iowans and Americans across the country – by:

- **Bringing Alzheimer's to the forefront of our national conversation** and bringing greater focus to the growing Alzheimer's crisis and the need to find a cure.
- **Supporting and advocating for the rapid enactment of a National Alzheimer's Plan** – one that sets a bold but achievable goal of preventing or controlling this disease within the decade by advancing innovative Alzheimer's research and discovery.
- **Supporting crucial reforms** so government policy and red tape does not delay innovative research or stand between patients and treatments, as well as supporting a dramatic investment in outcomes-oriented research at academic institutions in Iowa, with metrics and timelines to assure that we obtain results.

For more information and to sign on in support of the campaign, please visit www.USAgainstAlzheimers.org/iowa or email iowa-a2@sppg.com or call 515-237-0328.

About IowaAgainstAlzheimer's

IowaAgainstAlzheimer's is an Iowa-led, on-the-ground effort of the national USAAgainstAlzheimer's (USA2) campaign to mobilize America to stop Alzheimer's by 2020. Stopping Alzheimer's is essential to the fiscal sustainability of Medicare and Medicaid and to the health and financial well being of millions of American families. Congress and the President have the power to adopt this goal and to make the investments needed to achieve it. In Iowa, SPPG is helping mobilize Iowans to fight this dreaded disease. For more information, please contact iowa-a2@sppg.com or 515-237-0328.

¹ Alzheimer's Association. 2011 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures, www.alz.org/facts.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ National Institutes of Health. "NIH Budget"; May 18, 2010. Available at: <http://www.nih.gov/about/budget.htm#note>