

## November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month

Did you know that every 70 seconds, someone in America develops Alzheimer's and 35 million people worldwide are living with dementia?

**A new global prevalence estimate highlights the need for action and response:** 35 million people worldwide – a 10% increase over 2005 – are living with Alzheimer's and dementia. According to the [2009 World Alzheimer Report](#), released from Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI), the number of people with Alzheimer's is expected to nearly double every 20 years, to 65.7 million in 2030 and 115.4 million in 2050.

**The number of people affected by Alzheimer's is growing at a rapid rate,** and the increasing personal costs will have significant impact on the world's economies and health care systems. We must make the fight against Alzheimer's a priority here in the United States and worldwide," said Harry Johns, President and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association. "We must take action against Alzheimer's now."

**Worldwide, the economic cost of dementia has been estimated as \$315 billion annually.** The total annual costs per person with dementia have been estimated as \$1,521 in a low income country, rising to \$4,588 in middle income countries, and \$17,964 in high income countries. (Anders Wimo, et al. "An Estimate of the Total Worldwide Societal Costs of Dementia in 2005." *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association*. Volume 3, Issue 2, April 2007.)

**With 77 million American baby boomers reaching the age of greatest risk,** it is clear that the crisis of dementia and Alzheimer's cannot be ignored. Left unchecked, dementia and Alzheimer's will impose enormous burdens on individuals, families, health care infrastructures and the worldwide economy. The United States government should commit to making Alzheimer's disease a health care priority and the next step is to pass the [Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act](#).

Write Congress now and urge your representatives to support the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act.

The Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act introduced in the Senate by Senators Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Christopher "Kit" Bond (R-MO) and in the House by Representatives Edward Markey (D-MA) and Christopher Smith (R-NJ) seeks to increase funding for Alzheimer's at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to \$2 billion, which would be a significant step in restoring momentum in the pursuit of better diagnosis, prevention and treatment.

The legislation also creates a National Summit on Alzheimer's, which would bring together researchers, policymakers and public health professionals to discuss the latest promising research avenues in Alzheimer's disease.

Equally important as investing in the research that can yield breakthroughs in the near future, is helping the nearly 10 million Alzheimer caregivers today who wrestle with the financial and emotional challenges of caring for a loved one with this disease. The Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act seeks to provide them with vital resources and tools to assist them in this demanding role by expanding the Alzheimer's Care State Matching Grant program.