

alzheimer's association®

Greater New Jersey Chapter

Spring 2007 | Volume One | Issue Four

Advocate Advance

Awareness Bill Approved and Signed by Governor Corzine!



In Trenton at the bill signing on Monday, April 9, 2007!

Governor John Corzine has officially signed our bill, which designates the 1st Monday of November as Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Day, into law. The public signing of this bill was held on Monday April 9, 2007 at the State House in Trenton. The bill will help raise awareness of the struggles of 350,000 New Jerseyans and their families who are affected by Alzheimer's disease.

Before the bill signing ceremony, Governor Corzine said a few words about the importance of raising awareness of this debilitating disease. I'm pleased to report that there were also several NJ legislators in attendance to show their support of this bill. Among those were Senator Robert Singer (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean), Senator Ronald Rice (D-Essex) and Senator Fred Madden (D-Gloucester/Camden). Senators Singer and Rice both have personal experience with Alzheimer's and have spoken out about showing their support in any way they can.

RECAP REPORT: The 19th Annual Public Policy Forum



The 2007 National Public Policy Forum was held in Washington D.C., March 18-20. This year's forum exhibited a sense of urgency — advocates from across the country wanted to tell Congress to act now! Our presence in Washington represented the millions of Americans with Alzheimer's who are not able to speak up for themselves. The two days in Washington were pivotal in making our legislators understand how deeply Alzheimer's disease affects our country.

We urged legislators to help:

1. Provide access to effective treatments that will prevent or slow the onset and progression of Alzheimer's disease.

Increase funding for Alzheimer's research at the National Institutes of Health by \$125 million to begin reversing what has been a steady decline in federal support for basic and clinical research.

Increase funding for the Food and Drug Administration in order to ensure expedited review of Alzheimer's treatments

2. Insure quality chronic health care services for people with Alzheimer's disease.

Enact a Medicare Chronic Care Management benefit in the Medicare program to prevent health care crises that contribute to avoidable hospitalizations, excess disability and premature functional decline.

Continue funding for proven programs that support Alzheimer caregivers including the 24/7 Alzheimer's Call Center (\$1 million), CDC Brain Health Initiative (\$3 million), Safe Return program (\$1 million) and the Alzheimer's state matching grants program (\$12 million)

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3. Protect the retirement security of American families against the high cost of long-term care.

Enact Long Term Care Financing legislation

Funding for the new Lifespan Respite Care Program

We also visited our New Jersey representatives and senators to discuss how important these issues are to the millions struggling with this devastating disease. We will continue to work hard and give a voice those who are affected by Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer's in the News

Alzheimer's has been in the news quite frequently in the past few months. Here are a few articles on issues such as early onset and the growing number of people with Alzheimer's disease in the United States. For further information, below are the websites you can visit to learn more.

[New York Times](#): Living With Alzheimer's Before a Window Closes

[MSNBC](#): Alzheimer's rate to skyrocket as boomers age

[WebMD](#): Loneliness May Up Alzheimer's Risk

[HealthDay](#): Diabetes May Lead to Precursor of Alzheimer's

Public Policy Updates

Congress had introduced a bill called the "Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act of 2007." Senator Robert Menendez of NJ and Representative Christopher Smith of NJ are among the sponsors of this bill. Here are a few highlights of the bill:

1. Strong commitment to Alzheimer's research
2. Public Health Promotion & Prevention of Alzheimer's Disease
3. Support for Caregivers

This bill was among the issues that we discussed during our meetings on the Hill during the National Public Policy Forum this March.

Useful Links



www.house.gov
www.senate.gov
www.njleg.state.nj.us

www.alznj.org
www.alz.org
www.nytimes.com/health
www.nj.com/health

Words to Inspire

"The future depends on what we do in the present." - *Mahatma Gandhi*

Coordinator's Corner

Leena Shah, Coordinator of Advocacy and Public Policy

Hi Everyone! Thank you to all of the advocates who worked hard and helped in passing our NJ awareness bill. Your hard work paid off!



As Mahatma Gandhi so eloquently said, the future depends on what we do in the present. What I am asking you to do today is to ask one person that you know to become an advocate. It can be anyone — friends, family, co-workers, etc.

Advocacy is a powerful tool in the fight against Alzheimer's and its debilitating effect on families. We always need people to be involved — help us mobilize people for action and make things happen!

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To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).
Questions or comments? E-mail us at leena.shah@alzni.org or call 609-514-1180