

H.R.1386/S.738
Health Outcomes, Planning, and Education for Alzheimer's Act
The HOPE for Alzheimer's Act

Background and Bill Summary

Although Alzheimer's disease is diagnosed correctly up to 90 percent of the time by physicians with specialized training, as many as half of individuals meeting specific diagnostic for dementia never receive a diagnosis - and some evidence suggests it could be as high as 80 percent. The absence of a formal diagnosis of Alzheimer's deprives individuals of treatments and services that could help people and families facing Alzheimer's by improving symptoms, prolonging independence, and reducing caregiver stress. A formal and documented diagnosis opens access to valuable supports and services. The HOPE for Alzheimer's Act:

- **Improves diagnosis and increases access to quality care.** Amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to cover comprehensive Alzheimer's disease and related dementia diagnosis and services.
- **Provides greater access to care planning information and services,** by providing care planning services in the physician's office and information about additional medical and community-based services. These valuable services help individuals with the disease and their caregivers better manage medications, engage in financial planning, and assess driving and safety issues in advance.
- **Requires documentation in the person's primary medical record,** enabling health care providers to anticipate and prevent potential complications in the management of other conditions (such as heart disease and diabetes) and allowing for care coordination among treating physicians.

Status

H.R.1386/S.738, the Health Outcomes, Planning, and Education (HOPE) for Alzheimer's Act was reintroduced in the 112th Congress by Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Susan Collins (R-ME) and Representatives Edward Markey (D-Ma) and Chris Smith (R-NJ) on April 19, 2011/April 6, 2011.

After introduction HR 1386 was referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Subcommittee on Health, and, the House Ways and Means Committee, Subcommittee on Health; S 738 was referred to the Committee on Finance.

HR 1386 currently has [81 Cosponsors](#) and S 738 currently has [14 Cosponsors](#).

Rationale/Talking Points

- The HOPE for Alzheimer's Act will improve diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and increase access to information, care and support for newly diagnosed individuals and their families - providing essential support for those facing this devastating, debilitating disease.
- The absence of a formal diagnosis of Alzheimer's deprives individuals of treatments and services that could help people and families facing Alzheimer's by improving symptoms, prolonging independence, and reducing caregiver stress. A formal and documented diagnosis opens access to valuable supports and services.