In January 2011, the National Alzheimer’s Project Act (NAPA) was signed into law. This groundbreaking legislation established the first-ever framework for a national strategic plan to address the Alzheimer’s crisis. Thanks to bipartisan congressional leaders working with the Alzheimer’s Association and the Alzheimer’s Impact Movement (AIM), progress is being made in the fight to end Alzheimer’s and all dementia.

THEN
Prior to 2011, there was no cohesive national plan to address one of the country’s most deadly diseases: Alzheimer’s. The Alzheimer’s Association and AIM recognized this shortcoming and built a framework to change the trajectory of the disease.

NOW
10 years later, thanks to countless hours of advocacy efforts with bipartisan lawmakers, NAPA resulted in the first National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease.

THEN
In 2011, Alzheimer’s and dementia research funding at the NIH was just $448 million annually. The Alzheimer’s Association and AIM developed and advanced the Alzheimer’s Accountability Act.

NOW
Congress hears directly from NIH scientists through Professional Judgement Budget, and Alzheimer’s and dementia research funding is $3.4 billion annually, representing a more than seven-fold increase in research funding since NAPA passed.

THEN
In 2017, the first National Research Summit on Care, Services, and Supports for Persons with Dementia and Their Caregivers took place.

NOW
Thanks to this summit, we now have national research recommendations for people with dementia and their families.

THEN
People with younger onset couldn’t get access to critical care and support services because of their age.

NOW
We grew bipartisan support for the Younger-Onset Alzheimer’s Disease Act, which ensures Americans living with dementia under the age of 60 can now utilize services through the National Family Caregiver Support Program.

THEN
There was a lack of training and awareness by professionals on how to work with people living with dementia.

NOW
Because of the Alzheimer’s Awareness to Prevent Elder Abuse Act, the DOJ is implementing training for professionals that encounter victims of abuse living with Alzheimer’s and other dementias.

THEN
Consistent with the National Plan, the Alzheimer’s Association and AIM conceived of and championed the HOPE for Alzheimer’s Act.

NOW
As of January 2017, Medicare covers cognitive and functional assessments and care planning for people with Alzheimer’s and other cognitive impairments. And because of the Improving HOPE for Alzheimer’s Act, care providers are receiving education about this valuable resource available through Medicare.

THEN
There was no cohesive infrastructure focused on public health interventions to address the growing Alzheimer’s public health crisis.

NOW
The Association, through AIM, was instrumental in developing and passing the Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s Act in 2018. BOLD created an Alzheimer’s public health infrastructure across the country to implement effective interventions.

THEN
Following NAPA, the Alzheimer’s Association hosted meetings for input on the national plan.

NOW
Our nation is working toward the first goal – to effectively treat and prevent Alzheimer’s by 2025.

TOMORROW AND BEYOND
Through the NAPA Reauthorization Act and the Alzheimer’s Accountability and Investment Act progress will continue.