

4

Alzheimer's research

- 1 WHEREAS Alzheimer's disease affects more than 4 million Americans today and the number of Americans affected will rise by 50 percent to 6 million in just 17 years, and to more than 14 million by the middle of the 21st century;
- 2 WHEREAS Alzheimer's disease will take more of our national wealth than any other illness except cancer and heart disease;
- 3 WHEREAS failing to prevent or treat this disease will guarantee that its devastating impact will be passed along from generation to generation;
- 4 WHEREAS funding for Alzheimer research in 1995 is less than \$78 per person with the disease, or about \$1 for every \$321 the disease now costs society;
- 5 WHEREAS delaying the onset of Alzheimer's disease by only 5 years can reduce by half its potential victims and save the nation more than \$50 billion annually;
- 6 WHEREAS research on genetics, brain chemistry and structure, and diagnosis means treatments are within reach; and
- 7 WHEREAS research on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias has applicability to many other diseases of the brain and central nervous system;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the 1995 White House Conference to support policies that:

- 8 Expand the Federal commitment to Alzheimer research now by \$50 million, and to \$500 million (from its current level of \$311 million) before the turn of the century, and increase it appropriately thereafter;
- 9 Continue the current high priority of Alzheimer research at the National Institute on Aging until the disease is brought under control.