

February 3, 2012

455 Capitol Mall

Suite 222

Sacramento

California

95814-4405

(916) 448-1900

Fax: (916) 448-1659

Comments from the California Assisted Living Association (CALA) submitted to HHS on the Draft Framework for the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease

The California Assisted Living Association (CALA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Framework for the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease. We are concerned that the Draft Framework neglects to acknowledge the valuable contributions Assisted Living offers to those with Alzheimer's disease and their families. As the nation focuses efforts to address the growing challenges associated with Alzheimer's disease, I encourage you to recognize Assisted Living as a partner in providing solutions.

For hundreds of thousands of individuals living with Alzheimer's, Assisted Living provides needed 24-hour care in a supportive, residential setting. Assisted Living programs and activities promote independence while the environment itself is designed to minimize agitation, promote socialization, and fully engage residents. Assisted Living providers in California and throughout the country work closely with research institutions, health care providers, state and federal government agencies, and family caregivers to design and deliver high-quality care options.

The Framework and future drafts of the plan itself should recognize that individuals with dementia also choose to live in Assisted Living and not just the settings currently listed as examples. When Assisted Living was called out, it was in a strategy related to preventing abuse. Abuse in any setting is unacceptable. However, given the expertise Assisted Living providers have with consumer focused care in a residential setting and given continued growth in consumer demand, we believe Assisted Living should be acknowledged not just as a housing and care setting of choice, but as a partner in bettering the lives of individuals with Alzheimer's and ultimately seeking strategies to eradicate this disease.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft Framework and look forward to the continued collaborative efforts to finalize a National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease.

*The Voice of
Assisted
Living*

Sincerely,



Sally G. Michael
President