

Topic Specific Talking Points- Alzheimer's Disease

Use the following talking points to guide conversations with candidates about medical research and find out your candidates' position on accelerating medical progress. This example has been customized for a specific audience. Research!America would be happy to work with you to tailor specific advocacy materials that meet your needs. *Please contact Rachel Weissman at rweissman@researchamerica.org or 571-482-2716 to discuss additional materials.*

Questions for Town Halls, meetings with candidates or other events:

- We are facing a problem of epic proportions with Alzheimer's disease both in costs to the healthcare system and in the toll it takes on families. What do you think can be done to speed up treatment or a cure?
- According to the Alzheimer's Association, the cost to treat Alzheimer's and other dementias will rise to over \$1 trillion by 2050. If elected, what would you do to speed neurological research and ensure that these diseases do not continue to wreak havoc on our country?
- [Describe your personal connection to Alzheimer's disease]. What will you do to highlight the importance of Alzheimer's disease research and rally the support of your colleagues?

Quick Facts on [Alzheimer's disease](#) in America:

- 5.3 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, more than the populations of New Hampshire and Iowa combined.
- By 2050, the annual cost of caring for Americans with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia will surpass \$1 trillion.
- Our nation spends \$214 billion per year on Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.
- As of 2015, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death for Americans. Between 2000 and 2010, deaths attributed to Alzheimer's disease increased by 68%
- More than 15 million Americans provided 17.7 million hours of unpaid care to family members or friends with Alzheimer's disease in 2014. This care is valued at over \$220 billion.
- A treatment that delays Alzheimer's by just 5 years could save more than \$375 billion by 2050.

