



2026 CAMPAIGN GUIDE

Leading in the Fight to End Alzheimer's
and All Other Dementia

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Dear Candidate,

Alzheimer's isn't a red or blue issue — it affects everyone.

Over the past decade, thanks to bipartisan lawmakers at the state and federal level, our nation has made addressing the growing Alzheimer's and dementia crisis a priority. As a result we've entered a new era with Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved treatments that treat the underlying course of the disease, a growing body of evidence on effective means of prevention, and rapid advancements in biomarkers that will enable diagnosis even before symptoms emerge.

Still, much work remains. More than 7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and nearly 13 million more are providing unpaid care. One in 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia. It kills more than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined.

In the pages that follow, we outline the policy priorities of the Alzheimer's Association and the Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM), a 501(c)(4) separately incorporated advocacy affiliate of the Association, and our network of dedicated advocates. As you head out on the campaign trail, we encourage you to talk to your constituents, hear their stories about how dementia is impacting their lives and communities, and share your plan to address Alzheimer's and all dementia.

We hope you'll continue to make Alzheimer's and all other dementia a priority in your state and our nation.

For statistics specific to your state we encourage you to visit alz.org/facts.

Sincerely,

Robert Egge

Chief Public Policy Officer, Alzheimer's Association
President, AIM

2026 ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE FACTS AND FIGURES



OVER
7 MILLION
Americans are living
with Alzheimer's



1 in 3

older adults dies with
Alzheimer's or another
dementia

Between 2000 and
2024 deaths from heart
disease have decreased

3.8%



while deaths from
Alzheimer's disease
have increased over

134%



It kills more than
breast cancer and
prostate cancer



COMBINED

NEARLY

13 MILLION

Americans provide
unpaid care for people
with Alzheimer's or
other dementias



These caregivers
provided more
than 19 billion
hours valued over

**\$446
BILLION**



The lifetime risk
for Alzheimer's
at age 45 is

1 in 5
for women

1 in 10
for men

In 2026, Alzheimer's
and other dementias
will cost the nation

**\$409
BILLION**

By 2050,
these costs
could rise to nearly

\$1 TRILLION



3 out of 4

Americans say
lifestyle behaviors
are important
for brain health,



but only

46%

strongly connect
these behaviors to
reducing dementia risk



For more information, visit alz.org/facts

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ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION®

★ 2026 FEDERAL POLICY PRIORITIES

Alzheimer's and other dementia are a growing crisis for our families and the economy. The federal government must address the challenges the disease poses and take bold action to confront this crisis now.



CONNECTING AMERICANS TO EARLY DETECTION

New blood tests can detect Alzheimer's disease before symptoms appear — a scientific milestone that Congress now has the opportunity to act on. This is a “mammogram moment” for Alzheimer's: when Congress enabled Medicare coverage for routine mammograms, screening rates soared and outcomes improved significantly. The bipartisan **ASAP Act (H.R. 6130 / S. 3267)** uses that same proven approach to clear the legal barrier that currently prevents Medicare from covering any screening test for diseases that cause dementia. The bill simply gives Medicare the authority to cover these tests based on its existing evidence-based process — giving more Americans access to earlier detection, treatment and the time to plan ahead when it matters most.



INCREASE THE COMMITMENT TO DEMENTIA RESEARCH AND PUBLIC HEALTH

More than 7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease, a number expected to nearly triple by 2050 — with costs projected to rise to nearly \$1 trillion by mid-century. Sustained federal investment is what has driven the scientific progress we've seen over the last decade, including new biomarkers for early diagnosis and the first treatments that slow the disease progression. AIM is urging Congress to provide an additional \$187.210M in FY27 for Alzheimer's and dementia research at NIH and \$41.5M for implementation of Alzheimer's and dementia activities at the CDC.



ADVANCE DEMENTIA WORKFORCE PREPAREDNESS

Only half of people living with Alzheimer's disease have a diagnosis — and depending on where they live, patients can face significant delays in receiving one. While 85% of initial diagnoses are made by primary care providers, most report they do not feel prepared to care for those diagnosed because they are not dementia specialists. The bipartisan **AADAPT Act (H.R. 3747 / S. 4036)** would provide virtual Alzheimer's and dementia education and training to more primary care providers. This will help them better understand how to detect, diagnose, care for, and treat Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.



State Policy Priorities



Alzheimer's is a growing public health crisis and state governments must take bold action. Effectively implementing and updating State Alzheimer's Plans and supporting other policies will reduce the long-term impact of the disease on state budgets, and improve the lives of individuals living with dementia and their family caregivers.

1

Advance risk reduction, early detection and diagnosis

The need for greater awareness of the risk factors and warning signs for cognitive impairment including Alzheimer's and other dementia is critical. A growing body of evidence shows that promoting healthy behaviors can reduce the risk of cognitive decline, possibly reduce the risk of dementia, and protect cognitive health. Nearly 4 in 5 Americans would want to know if they had Alzheimer's disease before having symptoms or before symptoms interfere with daily activities.

Yet 55% of primary care physicians caring for people living with Alzheimer's report there are not enough dementia care specialists in their communities to meet patient demand. An early and accurate diagnosis can improve access to care and support services, enhance quality of life and significantly reduce the financial impact of dementia.

2

Enhance care and support in community

The total lifetime cost of care for someone living with dementia is estimated at more than \$400,000 with 70% of these costs borne by family caregivers through unpaid caregiving and out-of-pocket expenses. Ensuring adequate access to home- and community-based services (HCBS), improving care coordination, and streamlining the delivery of care for individuals living with dementia will mitigate the long-term impact on state budgets and improve the lives of those affected by this devastating disease.

3

Ensure access to diagnostics and treatment

For individuals living with dementia and their families, access to resources and treatment is essential at all stages of the disease. More than 9 in 10 Americans would "definitely" or "probably" want a simple medical test — such as a blood biomarker test — if it was available. More than 90% of Americans indicated they would "probably" or "definitely" want to take a medication that could slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease following a diagnosis. With the historic Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of treatments that slow the progression of Alzheimer's in the early stages, access to diagnostics and treatment are even more critical to ensure individuals receive the most benefit at the earliest point possible.

4

Support quality care

States across the nation are experiencing an unprecedented health care workforce shortage. Researchers have estimated that over 860,000 additional direct care workers will be needed by 2032 — more new workers than in any other single occupation in the United States. Quality care delivered by trained providers leads to better health outcomes for individuals and caregivers, puts less strain on state health systems, and reduces care costs through decreased readmission rates to hospitals. Ensuring systems of care consider the needs of people living with dementia will help to avoid crises and improve the delivery of care.

5

Build a state government infrastructure

One in 3 seniors in America dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia. For the first time, the number of people with Alzheimer's disease in America exceeds 7 million. As the number of Americans living with Alzheimer's continues to grow, so will the impact on state health systems, budgets and workforce. Numerous state agencies administer a variety of programs critical to people with dementia and their families. Efforts are often siloed with state agencies working separately from each other, leading to inaction and inertia. The lack of coordination hinders the ability of states to evaluate the effectiveness of policy efforts across the spectrum of programs serving those with dementia and their families. Addressing this public health crisis requires a coordinated response.



Engaging in the Fight to End Alzheimer's on the Campaign Trail

Throughout election season, the Alzheimer's Association, AIM and our nationwide network of dedicated advocates will be engaging candidates virtually at townhalls, debates and on social media. We hope you'll join us in elevating awareness of all those affected by Alzheimer's and all other dementia and share your plan to address this growing crisis.

Join the conversation. Follow us on social media at:



Twitter

@alzimpact
@alzassociation
#ENDALZ
#Road2ENDALZ



Websites

alzimpact.org
alz.org/facts



Instagram

alzimpact
alzassociation



Facebook

fb.com/alzimpact
fb.com/actionalz

CANDIDATE QUESTION CARD

All Policymakers Need a Plan
to Address the Alzheimer's Crisis



WHAT CANDIDATES SHOULD KNOW

- More than 7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, and nearly 13 million provide unpaid care.
- 1 in 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia.
- It kills more than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined.