**Letter to the Editor Talking Points**

*The following talking points can be used to help you write a personal and compelling letter to the editor for placement in your local paper. As always, please coordinate your efforts with your local chapter to avoid duplication.*

*2020 Presidential Candidates: What is your plan to protect the Alzheimer’s community from the pandemic?*

*Compelling Opening Suggested TPs (choose or create your own)*

* Those affected by Alzheimer’s are at a greater risk than ever before.
* Nearly half of all U.S. coronavirus deaths are linked to nursing homes. With a large proportion of those residents having Alzheimer's or other dementias, immediate action must be taken to protect this vulnerable community.
* Voters need to hear from the candidates about their plan of action for protecting those with Alzheimer’s in nursing homes in the wake of the pandemic.
* Millions of individuals across the U.S. (including NUMBER in STATE) are living with Alzheimer’s and their loved ones are looking for leadership to help guide them through this uncertainty.
* Presidential candidates need to release their official plans on how they will combat poor conditions in long-term care facilities and balance quality of care with social distancing measures
* With less than a month remaining until the election, candidates have an opportunity to lead on Alzheimer’s.

*Statistics to Make the Case TPs (choose a few or highlight others)*

* 40% of U.S. coronavirus deaths have been linked to nursing homes.
* People with Alzheimer’s or other dementias make up 48% of nursing home residents nationwide
* As of last month (September), at least 77,000 residents and workers nationwide have died from the coronavirus at nursing homes and other long-term care facilities for older adults in the United States.
* Deaths attributed to Alzheimer’s disease and dementia rose to more than 20 percent above normal just over this summer.
* According to the Alzheimer’s Association, there are NUMBER STATERS over the age of 65 living with Alzheimer’s.

*Ending Call to Action TPs*

* Please join me in asking President Trump and former Vice President Biden how they will help protect people affected by Alzheimer’s disease if they become President.
* We have made progress in the fight against Alzheimer’s and all dementia, and we need to keep going. Join me in asking CANDIDATE and MEMBER OF CONGRESS for his plan to address the growing deaths in Alzheimer’s patients from Covid-19.
* Visit alzimpact.org/2020 to learn more.