

Dear Friend,

I want to tell you about my ongoing efforts to improve how we care for the victims of a disease that has affected many of our families, our friends and our neighbors: Alzheimer's.

Right now on Long Island, 55,000 people are suffering from Alzheimer's. That means 55,000 families are struggling daily to confront this heartbreaking disease. Nationally, 5.3 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease – and more than half of the population over 85 years of age is afflicted.

A progressive and fatal brain disease, Alzheimer's causes severe memory loss, confusion, and impairs judgment and reasoning skills. Since people with advanced Alzheimer's can no longer care for themselves, the economic – as well as physical and emotional – burden of caring for an elderly relative often falls to families, many of whom are also dealing with the costs of child care or college tuition. The costs of doctor visits, prescriptions and medical treatments can quickly add up and for too many families become unsustainable. On top of costs to American families, Medicare and Medicaid spend over \$120 billion annually for victims of Alzheimer's; yet last year the National Institutes of Health invested only 1.5% of its budget in Alzheimer's research.

Because there is still no cure for Alzheimer's, it is imperative that the federal government make a strong commitment to funding research and treatment. I'm proud to have voted for \$31 billion for the National Institutes of Health to conduct biomedical research for diseases, including Alzheimer's. I'm also a member of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, a group whose mission is to improve the lives of those affected by Alzheimer's. However, there is still much more that the federal government can do. I want to hear from you about how Alzheimer's disease has affected your life. Please answer my survey below and tell me your stories. [\[\[BrowserLink\]\]](#)

For more information on my work fighting against Alzheimer's and issues of aging, please visit my website at <http://israel.house.gov>.

Sincerely,

Steve Israel

Member of Congress