

Letter: Help in fight to end Alzheimer's

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One in three seniors dies with Alzheimer's disease. It's the only leading cause of death in the U.S. that cannot be prevented, cured or even slowed. It is imperative that we have elected officials who are working to make Alzheimer's a national priority.

As an Alzheimer's Association advocate, I was fortunate to meet with Rep. Louie Gohmert at his congressional office. My fellow advocates and I shared our own personal experience with this devastating disease. We implored Gohmert to be a champion in Congress for the 390,000 Texans living with Alzheimer's.

During our meeting, I represented all the residents I have cared for over the past seven years in Longview, Carthage and Sachse as well as all of the East Texas families living with this disease. I told him about the struggles we are seeing on a daily basis with seniors not being prepared for the expense of this disease. Family members are not prepared to become caregivers. Physicians are not prepared to diagnose and produce plans of care.

Please join me in asking Gohmert for his continued support in the fight to end Alzheimer's.

— Jenni Wright Knutson, Sachse (Knutson is executive director at Oxford Glen Memory Care Residence and a certified dementia practitioner)