

SAMPLE CALL/EMAIL SCRIPT

Good Morning/Afternoon,

My name is _____ and I live in _____.

I am an advocate with the National Alopecia Areata Foundation (NAAF). NAAF supports research to find a cure or acceptable therapy for alopecia areata, supports those with the disease, and educates the public about alopecia areata. NAAF is widely regarded as the largest, most influential and most representative foundation associated with alopecia areata. NAAF initiated an Alopecia Areata Treatment Development Program dedicated to advancing research and identifying innovative treatment options.

Alopecia areata is an autoimmune skin disease resulting in the loss of hair on the scalp and elsewhere on the body. It usually starts with one or more small, round, smooth patches on the head and can progress to total scalp hair loss (alopecia totalis) or complete body hair loss (alopecia universalis). Alopecia areata tends to strike children and 6.9 million Americans have been, are, or will be affected by the condition. This common skin disease is highly unpredictable and cyclical. Hair can grow back in or fall out again at any time, and the disease course is different for each person.

{Share your alopecia experience. Be concise but let them know how alopecia has affected your life.}

I am calling today to ask for _____ (Name of Senator or Representative)'s help. Research remains critical to ultimately improving the health of individuals suffering from alopecia. We urge you to support a funding level of \$49 billion for NIH in the FY 2023 LaborHHS-Education Appropriations bill. We also ask that you support \$6 million for the CDC Chronic Disease Education and Awareness Program. This program seeks to provide collaborative opportunities for chronic disease communities that lack dedicated funding from ongoing CDC activities. Such a mechanism allows public health experts at the CDC to review project proposals on an annual basis and direct resources to high impact efforts in a flexible fashion.

H.R. 5430 has been introduced to provide coverage for wigs as durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program. This legislation makes a simple change to the Social Security Act to ensure that cranial prosthetics are considered durable medical equipment for treatment purposes moving forward. Many patients living with medical hair loss suffer from a variety of diseases, including cancer. With no known cause or cure, alopecia areata is an autoimmune skin disease affecting approximately 6.9 million Americans, many of whom are children. To cosponsor this important legislation please contact Maddie Trice from Congresswoman Pressley's office at 5-5111 or maddie.trice@mail.house.gov. A Senate version is in the process of being reintroduced.

Please consider me a resource for you and your office about any health related and patient issues.

Sincerely,

{Your Name}