

The Ensuring Useful Research Expenditures is Key for Alzheimer's (EUREKA) Act

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the EUREKA Act?

EUREKA stands for the Ensuring Useful Research Expenditures is Key for Alzheimer's Act. It is commonsense legislation that would authorize prize competitions to accelerate the development of disease-modifying treatments, means of prevention, or cures for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

What will the EUREKA Act do?

The EUREKA Act would authorize the government to support prize competitions to achieve high-priority breakthrough discoveries in Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, including innovations in caring for persons with Alzheimer's and to support family caregivers. It is linked to the national goal of preventing and treating Alzheimer's disease by 2025 and other objectives included in the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease.

Why is it needed?

Leading experts have said the United States needs to commit about \$2 billion in annual research funding to maximize our chances of achieving the national goal of preventing and treating Alzheimer's by 2025. Today, we dedicate about one quarter of this amount to this purpose. Even welcomed efforts to make Alzheimer's research a higher federal priority are not enough alone. This bill supplements these efforts by authorizing prize competitions.

Why focus on prize competitions?

Prize competitions are increasingly being seen as innovative and cost-effective approaches to address major challenges. They can attract a wide array of talent to a challenge, and awards are only paid if results are achieved.

Who would establish and oversee the competitions?

The legislation authorizes the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to work with an advisory council of experts and other relevant federal departments and agencies to establish specific challenges, including desired outcomes, eligibility and evaluation metrics, and to ultimately award prizes to winning entrants.

Who will select winners?

A judging panel of leading experts will be assembled to evaluate submissions and make

recommendations on awards. Ultimately the NIH, with advice from other federal agencies, will determine awards.

What are some examples of potential competitions?

The bill does not mandate any specific competitions but does contain several examples. These include validation of Alzheimer's biomarkers, development of low-cost and non-invasive early detection and diagnostic tools, repurposing of an existing drug as a disease-modifying treatment for Alzheimer's, and development of technologies—including telehealth tools—to improve care of persons with Alzheimer's.

How much will this cost?

The bill authorizes \$10 million annually for five years and authorizes the government to solicit and receive contributions from other sources including public and private entities and individuals. The model is the epitome of pay for success; if goals are not attained and prizes not awarded, the money goes back to the Treasury.

What happens if no one wins a competition?

If no submission achieves the milestones set out in the competitions, no awards will be made and the funding will remain in the pot until the law sunsets in 2025, our targeted year for an Alzheimer's cure.

How does this differ from current law, particularly the America COMPETES Act?

This bill builds upon and strengthens COMPETES. A number of COMPETES provisions, including in the areas of liability, intellectual property rights, and judging would apply to this legislation. It explicitly authorizes Alzheimer's competitions in alignment with the National Plan, and it authorizes the receipt of additional non-governmental resources to support such efforts.

When does the legislation expire?

The bill contains a five year authorization of appropriations from Fiscal Year 2017 through 2021. Furthermore, it includes a sunset date of September 30, 2025.