

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 13, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

Thank you for your past support of the Tourette Syndrome Public Health Education and Research Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We respectfully request that you include a \$2 million appropriation for the program in the Fiscal Year 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Departments Appropriations Bill.

As you may know, Tourette Syndrome (TS) is a hereditary neurodevelopmental disorder that typically develops during childhood and persists into adulthood, making it a life-long condition for most individuals. The disorder affects children and adults in all racial and ethnic groups. The symptoms of this disorder are rapid, repeated, and involuntary movements and sounds called tics, which can range from mild to severe and disabling. People with TS often have other conditions, such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD). TS is an often misunderstood and stigmatized disorder that, along with other tic disorders, impacts as many as one in 100 school-aged children in the U.S. Tourette Syndrome can have a profound, negative impact on the quality of life of those who are affected. The cause of the condition is unknown. There is no cure and treatment options are very limited.

In 2000, Congress passed the Children's Health Act that authorized the Tourette Syndrome Public Health Education and Research Outreach Program at CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. This program was created to increase recognition and diagnoses of TS, decrease the stigma attached to the disorder, and facilitate appropriate, effective treatments to those with TS. The program continues to address the education and training of physicians, allied healthcare workers, and education professionals to ensure proper and timely diagnosis and treatment of children with Tourette syndrome. Evaluation data from the program demonstrate that it is effectively providing new information and achieving its goal.

We thank you and commend you for your leadership in ensuring ongoing federal commitment to the improvement of health and expansion of research, education, and prevention of diseases and disorders.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



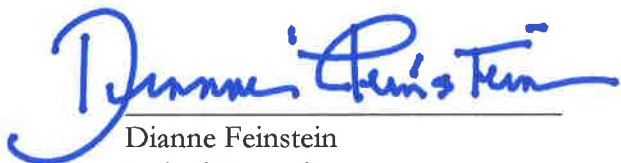
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United States Senator



Tom Carper
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United States Senator



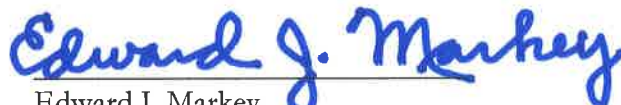
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



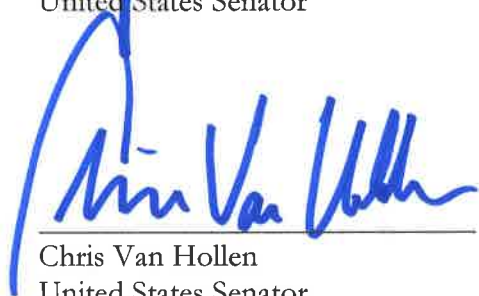
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United States Senator



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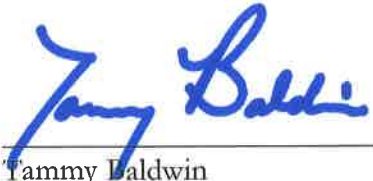
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