

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 19, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education  
United States House of Representatives  
B-300 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health, Human Services and Education  
United States House of Representatives  
1001 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As members of Congress who are committed to improving the lives of children and adults with Tourette Syndrome in the United States, we respectfully request your support for \$2 million for the continued funding of the Tourette Syndrome Public Health Education and Research Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in partnership with the national Tourette Association of America.

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). Tourette Syndrome is an often misunderstood and stigmatized disorder that impacts as many as 1 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 (P.L. 106-310). This Act authorized the Tourette Syndrome Public Health, Education, and Research Outreach Program to increase recognition and diagnosis of Tourette Syndrome, decrease stigma attached to the disorder, and increase the provision of appropriate, effective treatment to those with Tourette Syndrome.

The program continues to successfully educate and train physicians, allied healthcare workers, and education professionals to ensure proper and timely diagnosis and treatment of children with Tourette Syndrome. The comprehensive epidemiological study of the disorder, also supported by this program, will be critical for understanding and treating this disease. This study will seek to determine the prevalence of the disorder in the general population and the frequency of co-occurring disorders such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder. The knowledge gained from this research will greatly improve the lives of children and adults with Tourette Syndrome. We respectfully request that you include \$2 million for the Tourette Syndrome Public Health Education and Research Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the FY2019 Labor HHS Appropriations bill.

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

Sincerely,

*Leonard Lance*

Leonard Lance  
Member of Congress

*Steve Cohen*

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

*Zoe Lofgren*

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

*Pete King*

Pete King  
Member of Congress

*John Yarmuth*

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*Eliot L. Engel*

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*Julia Brownley*

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*Thomas R. Suozzi*

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Member of Congress

*Tim Walz*

Tim Walz  
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*Lee Zeldin*

Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress

*Niki Tsongas*

Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress

*Patrick Meehan*

Patrick Meehan  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
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Brian Fitzpatrick  
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Louise M. Slaughter  
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Joseph P. Kennedy III  
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Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



Denny Heck  
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Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Sam Graves  
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell  
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*Mark DeSaulnier*

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Scott Peters  
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress

*Frederica S. Wilson*

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Member of Congress

*Pete Sessions*

Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress



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Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress



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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



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John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress



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Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress



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Bill Flores  
Member of Congress



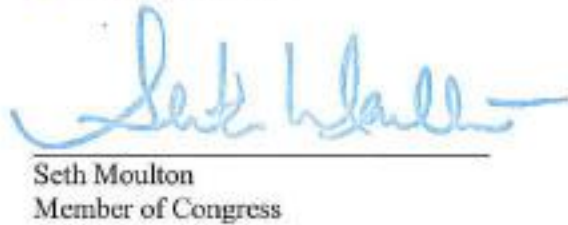
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John J. Faso  
Member of Congress



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