

**\*\*DRAFT EMAIL TO LAWMAKERS\*\***

Dear Senator/Representative\_\_\_\_\_:

I am writing to ask you to support federal funding for Parkinson's disease (PD) research. Currently, there is no treatment to slow or stop the progression of PD, nor is there a cure. The disease, which impacts nearly 1 million Americans, costs the United States almost \$26 billion per year. Investing in Parkinson's research now will help improve the lives of people living with the disease, and it will save our country significant amounts in health care costs.

*[Add a few sentences here about your personal connection to the disease, and/or the impact it has on you, your friends and/or your family. Explain why increased federal research funding matters to you.]*

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, I ask you to please support:

- \$5 million for the National Neurological Conditions Surveillance System. This system was authorized by the 21st Century Cures Act for the purpose of gathering comprehensive demographic information on people with neurological diseases, which is something scientists currently do not have. This lack of core knowledge makes it difficult to assess potential environmental triggers and other patterns of disease. The system will provide scientists with data to refine and target their research, which could lead to better knowledge of complex neurological diseases, new treatments and cures.
- \$20 million for the Department of Defense Parkinson's Research Program, which studies how events in the line of service, such as toxin exposure and traumatic brain injury, may lead to the development of Parkinson's in our nation's service members and veterans
- At least \$38.4 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We urgently need a cure for Parkinson's. NIH funding can help get us there. The agency supports approximately \$169 million in Parkinson's research and its work is vital to the development of treatments to slow or stop the progression of PD.

Please work with your colleagues to support robust funding for PD research in FY 2019. The Parkinson's community is grateful for your efforts to advance progress toward a cure.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME  
CITY, STATE, ZIPCODE  
EMAIL  
PHONE