

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

March 24, 2015

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense  
H-405, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense  
2328 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky,

On behalf of the families across the country impacted by dystonia, we thank the Subcommittee for its leadership in including dystonia as a condition eligible for study in the Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) in the past and urge you to retain this language in the fiscal year 2016 Defense Appropriations bill.

Dystonia is a neurological movement disorder characterized by involuntary muscle spasms that cause the body to twist, repetitively jerk, and sustain postural deformities. Some forms of dystonia are genetic, but dystonia can also be caused by injury or illness. There is no known cure for dystonia, and treatment options remain limited.

There are several scientific peer-reviewed journal articles which demonstrate a clear relationship between military and combat service and dystonia. Trauma is a signature injury of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and it is important to study the link between dystonia and combat-related trauma.

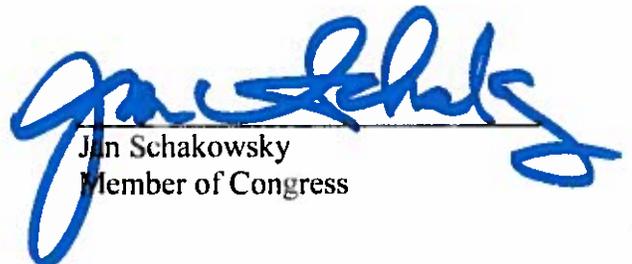
Dystonia researchers have competed successfully since the first year that dystonia was eligible for study in FY11. It is our belief that dystonia research would continue to advance positively through this program. Accordingly, we urge you to include dystonia in the PRMRP in the FY16 Defense Appropriations bill.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to working with you to continue the tremendous progress made in the scientific understanding of dystonia.

Sincerely,



Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



---

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



---

Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



---

Shaka Fattah  
Member of Congress



---

Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



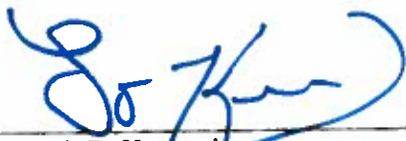
---

Mike Honda  
Member of Congress



---

Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



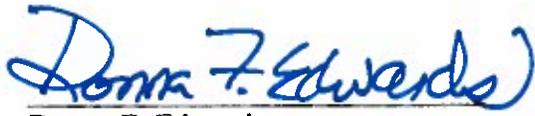
---

Joseph P. Kennedy  
Member of Congress

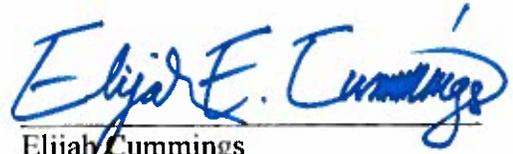


---

Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress



Elijah Cummings  
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta  
Member of Congress



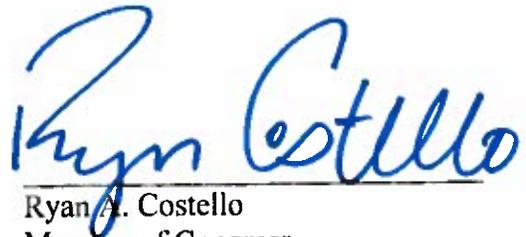
Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



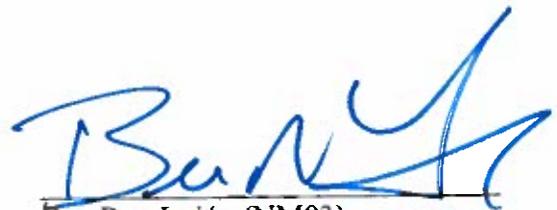
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



Ryan A. Costello  
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Luján (NM03)  
Member of Congress