

COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT
REFORM

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4501

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March 19, 2008

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health & Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James T. Walsh
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health & Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Walsh,

We are very mindful that the House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) will be faced with many difficult choices in 2008. However, we respectfully request that the committee recognize and redress at this time the long federal neglect of Americans suffering from headache disorders.

Headache disorders, including migraine, disable an extraordinarily high percentage of Americans, and National Institutes for Health (NIH) funding for research into these disorders has never been commensurate with the scale of the problem. Twelve national and international organizations including the World Health Organization, American Academy of Neurology, American Headache Society, National Migraine Association (MAGNUM), and the National Headache Foundation, have called for substantial increases in NIH research funding for headache disorders consistent with their high population prevalence and their enormous contribution to our national economic and disability burdens.

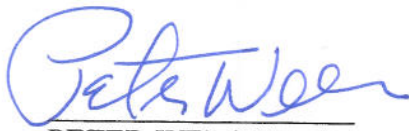
We hereby request that the following report language be appended to the FY 2009 bill that appropriates funding for the NIH:

The Committee encourages intensified efforts by the NIH to produce breakthroughs in understanding the causes, prevention, treatment, and eventual cure of headache disorders, including migraine, cluster headache, and chronic daily headache. The Committee strongly urges the NIH to increase research funding for headache disorders by (1) actively soliciting grant applications with Requests for Applications, (2) aggressively encouraging new investigators with career training and transition (K) awards, (3) providing fair peer review by headache scientists of submitted headache research grant applications, and (4) taking any other steps to ensure that vigorous intramural and extramural headache research programs are established within five years that are commensurate with the high population prevalence and enormous economic costs and disability burdens of these disorders.

To identify consensus research targets, the Committee further urges the NIH to collaborate with the national and international research community to develop "Headache Disorders Research Benchmarks", following the successful "Epilepsy Research Benchmarks" initiative as a model. To improve the transparency of NIH research funding allocations, the Committee expects that 'migraine', and 'headache disorders' will be included henceforth as individual categories in the annual NIH "Estimates of Funding for Various Diseases, Conditions, Research Areas", as well as in the forthcoming "Research, Condition, and Disease Categorization". The Committee also expects to be informed of the steps taken to increase research on headache disorders.

Thank you for your consideration.

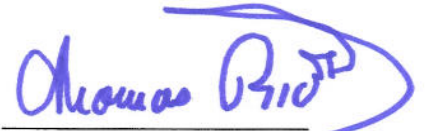
Sincerely,



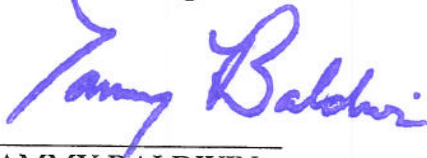
PETER WELCH
Member of Congress



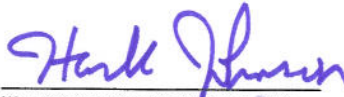
JAMES MORAN
Member of Congress



TOM PRICE
Member of Congress



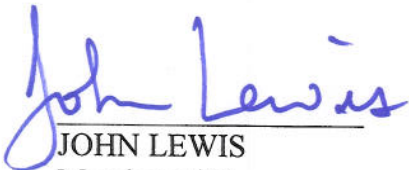
TAMMY BALDWIN
Member of Congress



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ED WHITFIELD
Member of Congress



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