This sample letter is to be used as a guide. You may add your own personal remarks, and ***You must include your name and address.*** *Letters sent by email or fax are preferred.*

The Honorable (Representative's Name)
(Office Address)
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative (Name):

[Include your personal story here if possible] As someone closely touched by Neurofibromatosis (NF), I am asking you to support NF research by signing on to two bipartisan letters that are being circulated by Congressman Luis Gutierrez.

Neurofibromatosis involves the uncontrolled growth of tumors along the nervous system, which can result in terrible disfigurement, deformity, deafness, blindness, brain tumors, cancer and death. NF is the most common neurological disorder caused by a single gene and it affects approximately 100,000 Americans. However, because of NF's close connection to many common diseases and disorders, such as cancer, learning disabilities, heart disease, memory loss, and brain tumors, research on NF stands to benefit 175 million Americans in this generation alone.

The first letter that I am asking you to sign on to is to the Defense Subcommittee requesting $20 million in funding for the Army's NF Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP). The second letter is to the Labor-HHS-Education subcommittee requesting inclusion of specific report language on NF research at the National Institutes of Health in the FY2011 LHHS Appropriations bill.

The modest investment in NF research through the DOD's CDRMP over the past fourteen years has resulted in major breakthroughs that must be seen through to fruition. Funds for NF research have allowed the creation of a wonderful network of NF centers that advance research through a *bench to bedside approach* and various projects from basic science through clinical trials have brought us closer to treatments and cures for NF and the numerous diseases associated with it.

NF research can also benefit the military since the disorder is connected to nervous system impairment and war-related illnesses. Because NF manifests itself in the nervous system, the Army-supported research on NF addresses peripheral nerve regeneration after injury from such things as missile wounds and chemical toxins. Findings generated by research on NF can make important progress in our understanding of wound healing, as well as in investigating genetic mechanisms which involve not only the nervous system, but also other cancers.

Please, show your support by looking for and signing onto these two letters. Thank you again for your support of this vital program.

Sincerely,

INCLUDE YOUR NAME
AND ADDRESS