

[SAMPLE LETTER]

SUPPORT NEUROFIBROMATOSIS RESEARCH

Senator (insert name)
Washington, DC

Dear Senator (insert name):

As someone affected by Neurofibromatosis (NF), I am writing to ask for your support of Neurofibromatosis research through both the Department of Defense (DoD) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). I specifically ask for your support by signing onto a letter seeking \$20 million for FY10 from DoD to continue the Army's highly successful Neurofibromatosis Research Program, and by signing onto a letter to the Appropriations subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, seeking the inclusion of Report language on NF research. Thanks to the subcommittee's past support, significant advances in NF research have been made over the past years and researchers are now on the threshold of a treatment and a cure for this terrible disease.

NF 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 modest investment in NF research has already resulted in major breakthroughs toward a treatment and a cure for this terrible disease. However, I believe that we must continue to invest in research if we are to continue to advance toward treatments and cures for the numerous diseases associated with NF.

I thank you for your consideration of this request and I look forward to working with you as we advance toward treatments and cures for NF and the numerous diseases with which NF is associated. **The deadline to sign the letter is May 5th.** Your office can sign on by contacting Jenny Wing in Senator Harkin's office at 224-3254 or jenny_wing@harkin.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

(insert name **and full mailing address**)