

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

July 28, 2006

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt  
Secretary of Health and Human Services  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

We are writing to urge you to renew the charter and fully fund the Department of Health and Human Services Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Advisory Committee (CFSAC). As you know, CFSAC is a federal advisory committee that provides evidence-based advice on the current state of research on chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) and research opportunities, current and proposed diagnostic and treatment methods, and the development and implementation of programs to educate the public, health care professionals, and researchers about CFS research and advances.

Chronic fatigue syndrome, also called chronic fatigue and immune dysfunction syndrome, is a complex and debilitating illness that affects the brain and multiple body systems. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that more than one million American adults and teens have CFS, costing our nation an estimated \$9.1 billion a year in lost productivity—not including medical costs. CFS warrants serious attention by the Department of Health and Human Services.


Meetings of the CFSAC provide a vital opportunity for experts selected by the Department to hear reports from, provide input to and monitor progress at the CDC, NIH, Health Resources and Services Administration, Food and Drug Administration and the Social Security Administration. The CFSAC's meetings also provide the patient community the opportunity to participate in these discussions and voice concerns through public testimony. Thus, CFSAC allows for greater transparency and accountability, helping to ensure the most effective utilization of federal resources dedicated to CFS.

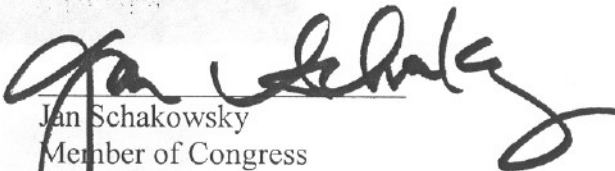
In 2004, the CFSAC presented your office with 11 recommendations. While you have yet to formally respond to those and later recommendations issued by the Committee, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health have implemented at least two of the recommendations — notably NIH's July 2005 issuance of a Request for Applications for CFS research and CDC's support of a national CFS awareness campaign.


The CFS Advisory Committee serves as an important forum for obtaining information, providing input and monitoring progress on federal activities pertaining to CFS. It is essential the CFSAC continue its work so that we can continue our momentum. We urge you to renew CFSAC's charter before its September 5, 2006 date of expiration, to respond to the Committee about the status of earlier recommendations and to fully support its continued work.

We appreciate your consideration of our views and look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

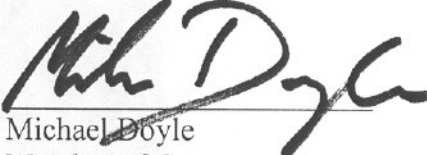
  
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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress


  
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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

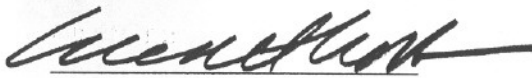
  
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Ron Paul  
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Elijah Cummings  
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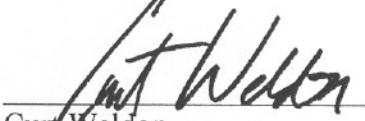
  
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Jim Matheson  
Member of Congress

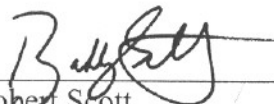
  
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Michael Doyle  
Member of Congress

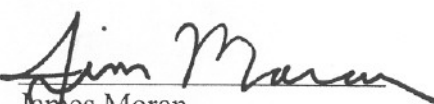
  
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Sheila Jackson-Lee  
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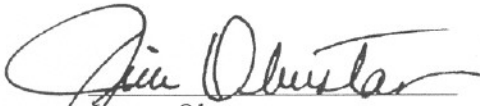
  
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

  
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Patrick J. Kennedy  
Member of Congress

  
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Curt Weldon  
Member of Congress

  
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Robert Scott  
Member of Congress

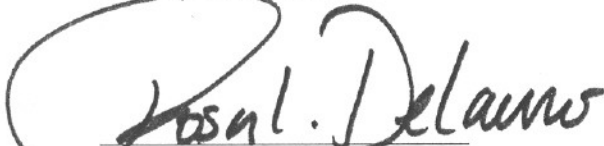
  
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James Moran  
Member of Congress

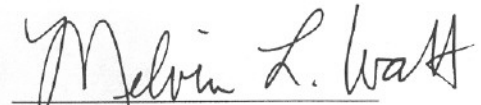
  
James Oberstar  
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Chris Van Hollen  
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Robert Wexler  
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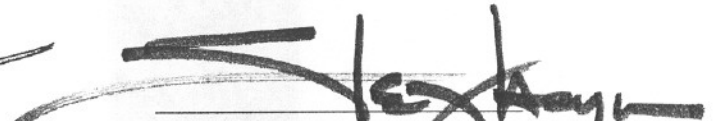
  
Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress

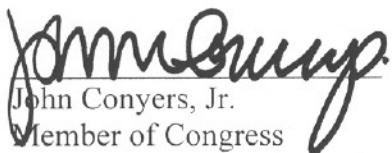
  
Mel Watt  
Member of Congress

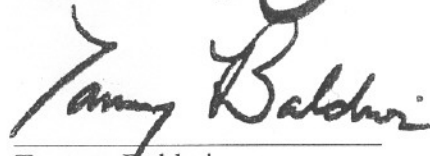
  
David Price  
Member of Congress

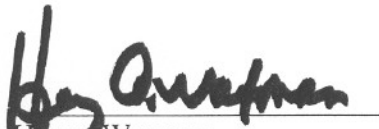
  
Sue Wilkins Myrick  
Member of Congress

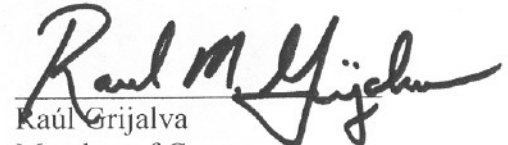
  
Anthony Weiner  
Member of Congress

  
Steny Hoyer  
Member of Congress

  
John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress

  
Henry Waxman  
Member of Congress

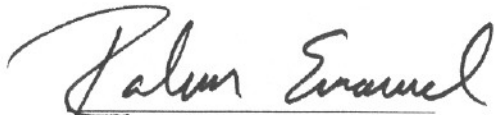
  
Raúl Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Ben Cardin

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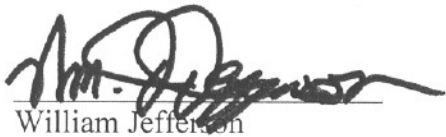
Benjamin Cardin  
Member of Congress



Rahm Emanuel

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Rahm Emanuel  
Member of Congress



Wm. Jefferson

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William Jefferson  
Member of Congress