

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

June 8, 2005

The Honorable Ralph Regula
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Subcommittee
2358 Rayburn HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Obey
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education
Subcommittee
2358 Rayburn HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

As you prepare the FY 2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we would like to urge you to increase funding for psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

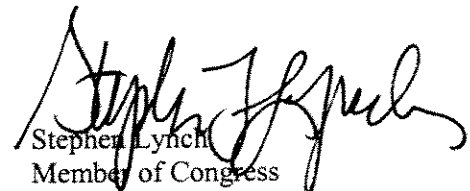
The National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) are the largest federal supporter of psoriasis and psoriatic research within the National Institutes of Health (NIH). However, since 1995, while NIH funding has increased 99 percent, even after inflation, funding for psoriasis at NIAMS has decreased 9 percent.¹⁻² NIAMS spends about \$1 per American with psoriasis on research for a disease which costs more than \$4 billion annually to treat.³ It is important that public investment in research at NIH is reaching all citizens and not leaving any disease state, such as psoriasis, behind.

A National Institute of Mental Health funded study found that psoriasis can cause as much physical and mental disability as other major diseases, including cancer, arthritis, hypertension, heart disease, diabetes and depression.⁴ Psoriasis is also associated with elevated rates of depression.⁵

On behalf of the more than 5 million Americans diagnosed with psoriasis and/or psoriatic arthritis, we urge you to increase research funding for these serious diseases.

Sincerely,


Tim Murphy
Member of Congress


Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress

¹ National Institutes of Health: The NIH Almanac – Appropriations. 2005.

² NIAMS Actual Psoriasis Funding, Reported by NIAMS Budget Office. FY 2005 Budget.

³ Kalorama Information “The U.S. Market and Developments Associated with Psoriasis.” July 2001.

⁴ Rapp, S et al. J Am Acad Dermatol. Sept:41(3):401-7. 1999.

⁵ Gupta, MA et al. Brit J of Dermatol. 139:846-850. 1998.



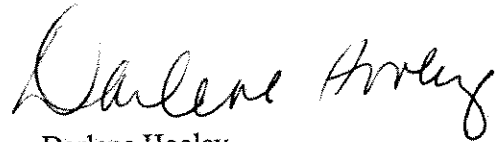
Tom Davis
Member of Congress



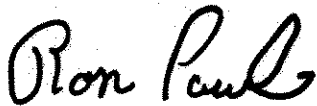
David Price
Member of Congress



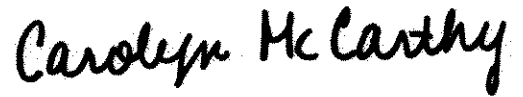
Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress



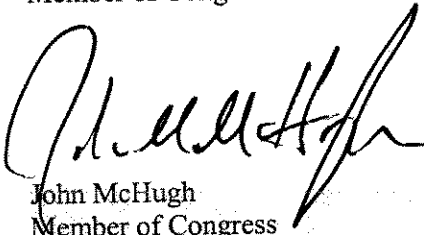
Darlene Hooley
Member of Congress



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Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



John McHugh
Member of Congress



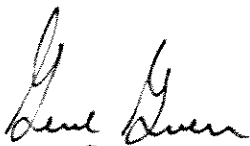
Michael McNulty
Member of Congress



Lynn Woolsey
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Dale Kildee
Member of Congress



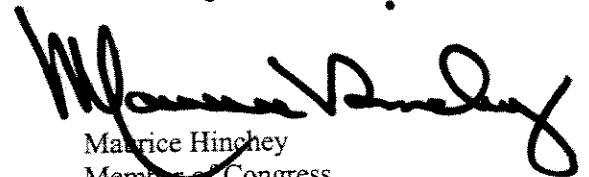
Gene Green
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Sheila Jackson Lee
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Michael Capuano
Member of Congress

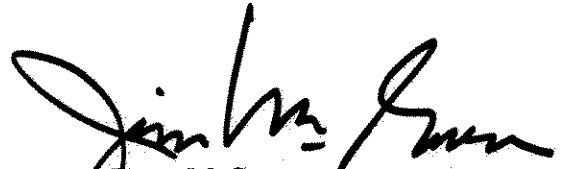


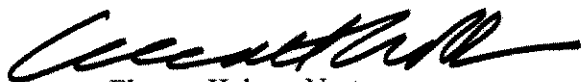
Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress


Henry Waxman
Member of Congress



Donna Christensen
Member of Congress

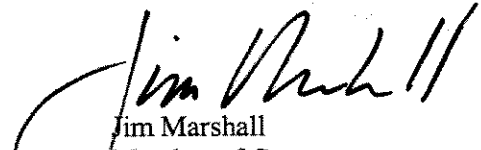

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Steve Israel
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Bob Filner
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Jim Marshall
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Barney Frank
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