

## How to Take Action for More Research for Peripheral Neuropathy

### What to do:

Contact the office of your two Senators and ask that they support “Peripheral Neuropathy” as a condition eligible for study through the Department of Defense Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program during the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations process.

### How to do it:

- Complete the letter below with your PN story.
- Include your mailing address in your letter to establish that you are a constituent of the state your Senator represents.
- Send the letter by email to your Senators. You can find their emails and other contact information by clicking [here](#).
- Please share your correspondence with us by send a copy of your communication to our government relations consultant, Mark Vieth, at [mvieth@dc-crd.com](mailto:mvieth@dc-crd.com).

### What to say:

You may use the template presented on the following page.

### Questions?

Please contact us at *the* Foundation *for* Peripheral Neuropathy at 847-883-9942 if you have any questions.

***Thank you for taking action! Together, we can make our voices heard!***

Date

Dear Senator,

As a constituent from (your state) diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy, I am writing to request your support for including the designation of “peripheral neuropathy” among the disorders and conditions eligible for research funding under the Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP).

Affecting more than 20 million Americans, “peripheral neuropathy” refers to the many conditions that involve damage to the peripheral nervous system. The disabling symptoms of peripheral neuropathy include poor balance, numbness in hands and feet, significant mobility problems, pain (sometimes severe), sleep difficulties, tremors, and muscle wasting and weakness. **[Tell Personal Story.** For example, I have suffered from this condition for \_\_ years. It has adversely affected me by \_\_\_\_\_.]

Peripheral neuropathy is common among the veterans community, particularly those diagnosed with diabetes, hepatitis C, and HIV. Cancer patients who have undergone chemotherapy treatment commonly develop peripheral neuropathy. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) presumes veterans' early-onset peripheral neuropathy is related to their exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during service when the disease appears within one year of exposure to a degree of at least 10 percent disabling by VA's rating regulations.

I urge you to contact the Senate Appropriations Committee and request that they include “peripheral neuropathy” among the eligible PRMRP conditions and have this language included in the fiscal year 2020 Defense Appropriations Act. I deeply appreciate your commitment to fighting this disorder and supporting research that will give the hope our community needs that a cure is within our grasp!

Sincerely,

Name  
Address