

Date

Dear Senator/Representative,

As a constituent from (your state) diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy, I am writing to first thank you and your colleagues for enacting the fiscal year 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act, which renewed the designation of “peripheral neuropathy” among the disorders and conditions eligible for research funding under the Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP).

I also write to encourage your support for renewing the designation of peripheral neuropathy as a PRMRP-eligible condition in the fiscal year 2025 Defense Appropriations Act. The continued inclusion of peripheral neuropathy for funding under this research program is critically important given its many causes and the numerous challenges patients living with this neurological condition face every day.

Affecting an estimated 30 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 Appropriations Committee and request that they include “peripheral neuropathy” among the eligible PRMRP conditions and have this language included in the fiscal year 2025 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,

Your Name
Your Home Address