**Your Name**

**Your address, city, state, zip code**

Date

Congressperson’s Information

Dear Rep. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

[Feel free to reword this text, and add your personal story – this is just a template]

I am writing to request your support for the continued funding of **Prion Disease Surveillance under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases**.  This funding is critical to monitor cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD), an invariably fatal neurodegenerative disease.  In addition, we request your help in encouraging the NIH to designate Prion Disease as one of the “Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) Prioritized Research Milestones.”

Insert your personal story with CJD:

CJD and other Prion Diseases are invariably fatal. A portion of the $7 million Prion Disease Surveillance funding requested for the CDC under Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases is used to fund the brain autopsy program at the National Prion Disease Pathology Surveillance Center (NPDPSC).  This provides families with answers about whether their loved one died of a sporadic, genetic, or acquired form of Prion Disease.  The program also monitors whether Mad Cow Disease and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in deer and elk have been transmitted to humans.  We request your support to:

1. **Allocate $7 million for Prion Disease surveillance through the CDC and NPDPSC to**:

* Monitor CJD cases and determine whether new strains are emerging
* Develop tests to determine whether CWD in deer and other cervids is spreading to humans
* In light of the rapid spread of CWD, provide an increase of $1 million over last year’s $6 million appropriation, for a total of $7 million, to enable the NPSPSC to provide for increased surveillance, tissue collection, diagnostics, and diagnostic test development of prion disease cases from CWD endemic states.

2. **Encourage the NIH (NINDS and NIA) to include Prion Diseases (including CJD) in the definition of “Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias” (ADRD) Prioritized Research Milestones.** Early discoveries about CJD were very valuable in studying other ADRDs, and this synergistic sharing of discoveries should continue, to benefit all protein-based diseases.

Thank you for reviewing this request. If you have questions, you may reach me at the number or email below.

Sincerely,

Your name, phone, and email