**Your Name**

**Your Address, City, State, Zip Code**

Date

Representative (Full Name)

(Room #) (House Office Building)[[1]](#footnote-1)

United States House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515[[2]](#footnote-2)

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

I am writing to thank you for supporting an increase in funding for **Prion Disease Surveillance** (*subcommittee: LHHS, agency: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), account: Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases)*, recognizing the vital work of the National Prion Disease Pathology Surveillance Center (NPDPSC), and encouraging the NIH to recognize Prion Disease as an Alzheimer’s Disease Related Dementia (ADRD).

Mention your personal story with CJD here.

Thank you, again, on behalf of myself and other families affected by Prion Disease, for supporting an increase of $1 million for a total of $7.5 million in funding for Prion Disease Surveillance. Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) and other Prion Diseases are invariably fatal neurodegenerative diseases. A portion of Prion Disease Surveillance funding is used to fund the brain autopsy program at the (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 Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (commonly known as “mad cow” disease) and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), Prion Diseases in cow and in deer and elk, respectively, may have been transmitted to humans. With CWD now in 30 states, surveillance to assess whether it may be transmitting to humans is increasingly critical and is generating additional costs for the program.

Thank you, in addition, for encouraging the NIH to include Prion Diseases in the definition of “Alzheimer’s Disease Related Dementias” (ADRD’s) Prioritized Research Milestones. There are many similarities between ADRD and Prion Disease, and including Prion Disease would allow NIH funds allocated to ADRD’s to also be applied to Prion Diseases. Specifically, it would enable ADRD researchers to study the prion paradigm in other related conditions, which in turn allows the use of more valid animal models, as animals naturally develop prion disease but not other neurodegenerative diseases. It would also permit technologies originally developed for prion disease to be used in other ADRDs without the need for separate funding, and it would enable potential treatment targets to be expanded across ADRD and prion disease. Finally, it would allow caregiver and health services research of ADRD to be applied to prion disease. 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 very much for your support, and for all your work on behalf of the residents of State’s #th[[3]](#footnote-3) congressional district.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Phone Number

Email

1. You can find representatives’ room numbers and office building names [here](https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative), and senators’ information [here](https://www.senate.gov/senators/index.htm). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Here is an example:

   The Honorable Shontel Brown

   2344 Rayburn House Office Building

   United States House of Representatives

   Washington, D.C. 20515 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Example: “Oklahoma’s 4th congressional district” [↑](#footnote-ref-3)