September 15, 2023

The Honorable John Smith

1234 Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator/Representative Smith:

I am writing to urge you to support the bipartisan Senate recommended fiscal year 2024 funding level for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and maintain myotonic dystrophy’s eligibility as part of the Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP). These federal funds are vital to our efforts to find FDA approved treatments and a cure for this rare and debilitating genetic disorder.

Myotonic Dystrophy is a multi-systemic inherited disease that affects as many as 1 in 2,100 people or over 150,000 people in the U.S. It is caused by a mutation in a gene required for normal muscle function, which prevents the gene from functioning properly. The disease is inherited, and individuals affected by it may have skeletal muscle problems, heart function abnormalities, breathing difficulties, cataracts, issues with speech and swallowing, cognitive impairment, excessive daytime sleepiness, or diabetic symptoms. It can reduce life expectancy. There are currently no FDA-approved treatments, and federal funding has lagged behind other similar genetic disorders.

**Include your personal story here!** If you are living with myotonic dystrophy, briefly tell your story, including:

* Year of diagnosis, how long did it take
* Impact on daily life, including top three symptoms
* Significant medical life events
* Impact on employment and family life

Thank you for your support for the myotonic district community and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Jane Doe
Street Address
City/Town, State