

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 7, 2010

Join the Rare and Neglected Disease Caucus

Dear Colleague:

As co-chairs of the newly-established Rare and Neglected Diseases Caucus, we would like to invite you to join our bi-partisan effort to promote awareness of the issues surrounding rare and neglected diseases.

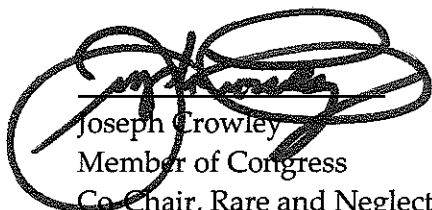
The caucus will focus on bringing greater congressional attention to the 6,800 known rare or orphan diseases that currently have no approved therapy, by working to ensure funding for research into these diseases and providing a forum for Members of Congress, families and advocacy groups to exchange ideas and policy concerns.

Rare or orphan diseases afflict nearly 30 million people, or one out of every ten Americans. Despite this fact, research opportunities remain challenging, and approved therapies are scarce. Rare and neglected diseases represent a large medical challenge in general, but combined with the bureaucratic hurdles faced by companies who attempt to create new drugs and the lack of financial incentives to treat or cure rare diseases, a serious public health issue has been created.

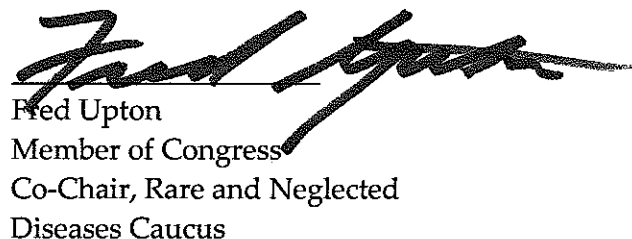
With limited therapy options for patients and inadequate research incentives for companies, those struggling with a rare disease—approximately 50 percent of whom are children—will continue to suffer as they wait for treatments that may or may not ever materialize.

For these reasons, we urge you to join the Rare and Neglected Diseases Caucus. If you would like more information about the Caucus, or would like to become a member, please contact Eli Kogan in Representative Joseph Crowley's office via e-mail at Eli.Kogan@mail.house.gov or via phone at x5-3965 or Mark Ratner in Representative Fred Upton's office via e-mail at Mark.Ratner@mail.house.gov, or via phone at x5-3761.

Sincerely,



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Rare and Neglected
Diseases Caucus



Fred Upton
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Rare and Neglected
Diseases Caucus