Sample TSC Support Letter

Below is a sample letter to use in creating your own letter. **Be sure to include your contact information at the end of the letter.**

Dear Senator /or Congressman \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

I’m writing to you today to ask you to support funding for tuberous sclerosis research in the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP); specifically the Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Research Program (TSCRP). My family is not directly affected by tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) but I have seen the impact (on my friends ) affected by (TSC)

**(You can briefly note the impact on the family you know but you don’t need to include everything:– who has TSC, how or when it was diagnosed, what manifestations – what’s involved: brain, heart, kidneys, skin, teeth, eyes, lungs; what challenges you’ve had, what worries you have for the future – how research has helped or at least provided hope)**

**Simply: “I have seen Michael have seizures and that was more than enough to make this disorder very real for me.” Or “Mary got the diagnosis when 6 months pregnant and the stress of uncertainty was immense.”**

**Some research impact points indicating progress and hope: Use something you can relate to….**

 **“TSC research had led to development of animal models to study traumatic brain injury. I’m active duty military and that’s a very real concern for us.”**

**“Autism, anxiety and other mental disorders share a common pathway with TSC. Studies of TSC may lead to new drug therapies that will benefit a much larger population.”**

**“Seizures in TSC are often difficult to control but TSC research has helped develop innovative surgical techniques that not benefit other epilepsy patients.”**

**“TSC has been described as a linchpin disorder. The genes fall in a critical cellular pathway that is important in disorders like epilepsy, autism, cancer, diabetes and more. TSC research could be the cure that unlocks more cures.”**

**Use some of this or not – people adapt it**

“A cure for TSC remains an elusive goal. More innovative research must be funded to improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of TSC – and ultimately cure the multiple manifestations of the disease. The TSCRP has funded studies that serve as gateways into gaining a better understanding of epilepsy, ASD, diabetes, cancer and other disorders that afflict service personnel and their families. Continued funding of the TSCRP will allow Congress to build on the investments it has already made in the program and is essential to support a robust level of grant awards for basic, translational and clinical research, truly providing hope for improved quality of life for all those living with TSC.”

**Pictures can help tell the story and make it personal.**

On behalf of your constituents who care about finding a cure for tuberous sclerosis complex, thank you for taking time to hear our story about dealing with this terrible disorder and our concerns to make sure that treatments and a cure are within our reach. Please support continued funding for TSC research in the CDMRP.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME
Your address

Some people also include email