



May 14, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gene Green
Ranking Member Committee on Energy &
Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Pitts Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigation
U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC
20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Upton and Pitts and Ranking Members Pallone, Green, and DeGette,

On behalf of Autism Speaks, the leading autism science and advocacy organization in the country, I would like to voice our support and sincerest gratitude for your efforts to accelerate the rate of innovations and research in medicine with the 21st Century Cures Act. Your bipartisan leadership and commitment to advancing treatments is celebrated by our organization and the countless individuals who could benefit from this landmark legislation.

As you know, American scientists and researchers lead the world in medical innovation, but far too many diseases and disorders like autism lack treatments to save and improve the lives of those impacted. Today, 1 in 68 children born will be diagnosed with autism. This alarming prevalence rate further underscores the need for the 21st Century Cure Act.

The latest draft of the 21st Century Cures Act gives hope to the thousands of children and adults who would benefit from medical advances. We applaud the policies to increase funding for the National Institutes of Health and to further include the perspectives of patients into the drug approval process. This could tremendously benefit current populations and future generations diagnosed with Autism as well as other diseases and disorders.



We are also grateful that the legislation has prioritized accelerating the promise of personalized medicine. This is an area of opportunity for the autism community, particularly in light of Autism Speaks' genome project called MSSNG. An autism diagnosis frequently requires individualized treatment plans and the personalized medicine initiative has the potential to enable this further.

Our organization is committed to working closely with the Committee and the members of their staff in the coming days on this legislation to give hope to countless Americans who would benefit from advancements in medical research and innovations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Feld".

Liz Feld
Autism Speaks
President