

Co-Sponsor the Understanding COVID-19 Subsets and ME/CFS Act, H.R. 7057

Office: Congressman Jamie Raskin

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Dear Colleague,

I invite you to co-sponsor [H.R. 7057](#), the Understanding COVID-19 Subsets and ME/CFS Act, which would expand and coordinate National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding to address post-viral chronic neuroimmune diseases such as myalgic encephalomyelitis, otherwise known as chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the nation battles a pandemic that has infected more than 1.75 million and claimed the lives of over 102,000 Americans, it is important to look forward and consider the potential lasting impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency on the health of our citizens. An avalanche of evidence makes clear that when a severe infection sweeps through the population — such as COVID-19 — ME/CFS often follows. Up to 80 percent of cases of ME/CFS are initiated by a viral infection such as COVID-19[1], and some researchers are predicting as many as ten percent of COVID-19 survivors will still have symptoms in six months.

The Understanding COVID-19 Subsets and ME/CFS Act would authorize and provide for the expansion, intensification, and coordination of programs at the NIH to target post-viral chronic neuroimmune diseases such as ME/CFS in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This legislation would allow the NIH to support research and data collection on diseases like ME/CFS in order to understand how best to diagnose and treat those who are infected, as well as to assess possible risk factors. It would additionally provide for public awareness and education campaigns to increase our understanding of the disease, with an emphasis on early diagnosis.

While we are facing a monumentally dangerous public health crisis, we must take all necessary steps not only to stem the spread of COVID-19, but also to prevent and control its lasting repercussions. Please consider joining my effort to address the lasting impact of COVID-19 through post-viral chronic neuroimmune diseases such as ME/CFS.

To cosponsor, please contact Martha Sanchez of my staff at Martha.Sanchez@mail.house.gov.

Very truly yours,

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

[1] “Institute of Medicine, Beyond Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Redefining an Illness, National Academies Press (Feb. 10, 2015), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25695122>.