

# H.R. 7057: Historic Legislation for the ME/CFS Community

**“We cannot let the number of ME/CFS cases rise due to a lack of research and understanding. As we battle the coronavirus, this critical legislation will help us respond to this ME/CFS hidden health crisis.”**

**— Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD)**



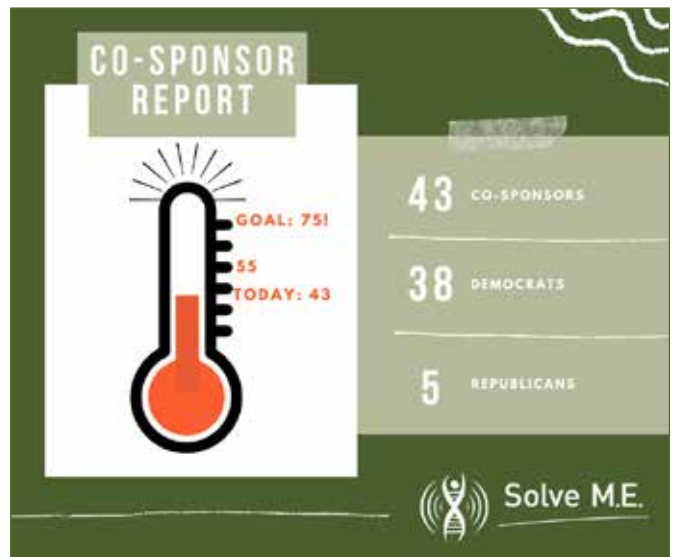
Emerging evidence indicates that growing numbers of COVID-19 “long haulers” are experiencing persistent, ME/CFS-like symptoms, including extreme fatigue, prolonged pain, and headaches, among other symptoms. In May 2020, longtime ME/CFS champion Representative Jamie Raskin introduced landmark legislation for ME/CFS research as part of congressional efforts to respond to the rising number of COVID-19 cases. It’s important to note that Raskin’s 8th Congressional district is also home to the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

H.R. 7057, The Understanding COVID-19 Subsets and ME/CFS Act, will authorize \$60 million over the next four years to expand NIH research into ME/CFS and post-viral impacts of COVID-19. The bill also empowers the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide for public awareness and medical education campaigns to increase understanding of ME/CFS.

As early as February 2020, Representative Raskin and his team recognized and shared our concerns about post-COVID ME/CFS and quickly worked through the

details for the final version of H.R. 7057. Raskin is an incredibly effective legislator and his leadership has been essential to the bill’s success so far.

Community advocacy will play a crucial role in getting H.R. 7057 across the finish line, and we have until December 2020 to make that happen. ■



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“With so many unknowns still surrounding the long-term effects of COVID-19, researching any potential patterns that may be surfacing is crucial. We are grateful for the work of Representative Raskin and our partners at the NIH in taking these first necessary steps. Given the emerging relationship between COVID-19 and post-viral fatiguing diseases, especially ME/CFS, the time to invest in researching potential links is now.”

— Oved Amitay, Solve ME/CFS President and CEO

## WHAT WOULD H.R. 7057 MEAN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ME/CFS?

### \$15 MILLION FOR 4 YEARS TOWARD DESPERATELY-NEEDED RESEARCH

This money would be appropriated toward research at the National Institutes of Health to address post-viral chronic neuroimmune diseases, including Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS).

### IMPROVED RESEARCH AND DATA

The legislation would allow the NIH to support data collection on ME/CFS to better understand how best to diagnose and treat these patients, as well as possible risk factors. The bill also allows NIH to establish or expand collaborative research centers for ME/CFS.

### EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

The bill highlights the importance of public awareness and education campaigns to increase understanding with emphasis on early diagnosis.

### PROGRESS REPORT

Within 24 months of enactment of H.R. 7057, NIH must submit a report to Congress on the progress made in gathering data and expanding research regarding the onset and clinical care of COVID-19 survivors with ME/CFS.

To read more about H.R. 7057 visit:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7057>

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*Each board member has ME or has a family member affected by this disease*



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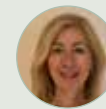
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