

Foundation for Ichthyosis & Related Skin Types, Inc.® (FIRST)

**SAMPLE LETTER FOR GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES**

*[Date]*

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

House (or Senate) Office Building

Washington, DC 20515 (20510)

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

As a constituent who votes, I am writing about an issue that is very important to me: medical research funding. Specifically, I am writing to urge you to support an increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) during fiscal year 20\_\_.

I *[my child, my friend, etc]* have a rare skin disease called ichthyosis. Ichthyosis is a family of genetic skin diseases characterized by severely dry, thickened, scaling skin. Symptoms of ichthyosis range widely depending on the variety of ichthyosis involved. My ichthyosis is *[personalize]*. As you can imagine, life with this disorder comes with many physical and social complications.

Research at the NIH is key to making much-needed progress in treatments and, hopefully, a cure for ichthyosis. In the past, increases in the NIH budget have led to great advances in genetic research for some of the ichthyoses. A recent lack of funding is causing many researchers to leave the field, while existing investigative labs are struggling to operate or recuperate from the loss.

*[personalize with a few sentences]*

Investing in research at NIH will lead to better treatments and better lives for patients living with rare diseases, like ichthyosis. Please support an increase in NIH funding, so that people like me can have hope that someday a cure will be found.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Your name  
Your address