

[OPTIONAL: CREATE YOUR OWN PERSONAL LETTERHEAD]

[INSERT DATE]

[INSERT ADDRESS BLOCK]

Dear Congressman/Congresswoman/Senator:

I am writing to ask you to join the Congressional Pediatric and Adult Hydrocephalus Caucus to give a voice in the halls of Congress to the one million children, seniors, and military service members living with hydrocephalus across our country, including in your [DISTRICT/STATE], including [INSERT YOUR WORDS - me, my child, my husband...].

Hydrocephalus is a disease characterized by excess cerebrospinal fluid in the brain. It can be diagnosed at birth or it can be the result of an injury or illness. A certain form of the disease simply develops with age and can be easily misdiagnosed as Alzheimer's or Parkinson's, though many of the devastating symptoms can be reversed with surgery. Experts also estimate that hydrocephalus has or will develop in 14% of our members of our Armed Forces who sustain severe traumatic brain injuries (TBI). Add that to an aging Veteran population, and members of our Armed Services constitute a growing number of individuals living with hydrocephalus.

While treatable, people living with hydrocephalus face the prospect of dozens of brain surgeries throughout their lifetime as one out of every two shunts implanted to treat this condition fails within two years – the highest failure rate of any implantable medical device. In my family, hydrocephalus...[INSERT YOUR WORDS]

The Congressional Pediatric and Adult Hydrocephalus Caucus was founded by Congressman Leonard Lance, (NJ) and Congressman Tim Walz, (MN), who will also serve as Co-Chairman of the caucus. There are currently 27 Representatives serving on the caucus. The caucus is focused on increasing awareness and education of Hydrocephalus and issues relating to it in order to encourage more research into its diagnosis, treatment, and ultimately, a cure through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Department of Defense (DoD). New, basic and clinical research will not only benefit the one million Americans, like [INSERT YOUR WORDS - me, my child, my husband...] already living with this disease, but could also shed new light into more effective treatments for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and traumatic brain injuries. Over the long run, more effective treatments will not only improve the lives of the one million Americans living with hydrocephalus, but will also save taxpayer dollars and reduce the burden of unnecessary high cost procedures on the healthcare system.

Please consider becoming a member of the Congressional Pediatric and Adult Hydrocephalus Caucus. It is time to bring attention to this chronic condition. It is time support the million people across all age groups, education levels, and professions that are living daily with hydrocephalus and the prospect of another brain surgery.

Sincerely,

[INSERT NAME]