

Message sent to the following recipients:

Representative Van Hollen
Senator Cardin
Senator Mikulski

Message text follows:

Dawn Mancuso
4340 East West Highway, Suite 905
Bethesda, MD 20814-4447

December 5, 2012

[recipient address was inserted here]

Dear [recipient name was inserted here],

I am a representative of approximately 1 million patients suffering with the heart-breaking neurological disease called hydrocephalus. I need you to listen to our concerns. There is bipartisan agreement that sequestration would be devastating to the nation and we urge you to ensure sequestration does not take effect. Please support a balanced approach to deficit reduction that does not include further cuts to nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs like public health and research.

NDD programs are core government functions that benefit everyone, including medical and scientific research; education and job training; infrastructure; public safety and law enforcement; public health; weather monitoring and environmental protection; air traffic control and border protection; housing and social services; and international relations. These programs support economic growth and strengthen the safety and security of every American in every state and community across the nation. Further reductions in these programs will have dire consequences for Americans.

To give just one example, sequestration would result in an 8.2% (or \$2.4 billion) reduction in the federal investment in medical and scientific research at NIH. This would mean 2300 fewer research grants funded in FY 13, delaying discovery of treatments and cures for the brain disease that I personally care about!

Further, research has shown that every \$1 of NIH funding generates about \$2.21 in local economic growth - growth that would be lost if these draconian cuts occur. To see the extent of cuts in your state, click on <http://www.unitedformedicalresearch.com/state-by-state/>. In addition, Medicare reimbursement will be reduced by 2.0%, targeted specifically at the doctors - in your state and district - who treat hydrocephalus patients.

Please support a balanced approach to deficit reduction that does not include further cuts to NDD programs.

Sincerely,

Dawn Mancuso, CEO, Hydrocephalus Association