



Become an Original Cosponsor to the CAL Undiagnosed Diseases Act of 2011

June 21, 2011

Dear Colleague:

I would like to extend to you the opportunity to become an original Cosponsor on an important bill that I will soon introduce to help all Americans that struggle with undiagnosed diseases.

One of my Constituents, Cal Long, recently died from an undiagnosed disease when he was only five years old. During his life, Cal developed many unexplained medical problems such as neurological difficulties, cerebral atrophy, severe headaches, uncontrolled vomiting, and seizures. Young Cal eventually lost the ability to walk.

Cal's family visited several specialists and had countless tests run in the hopes of finding a diagnosis. They were often told what the disease was *not*, but were never given an actual diagnosis. As they watched their son dying, the unimaginable pain was worsened by the fact that they did not know what was killing him. Because of this undiagnosed illness, young Cal died at the age of five.

To help diagnose diseases such as Cal's, we need to create an undiagnosed diseases registry. Currently, there is not a registry that helps people get diagnosed and medically treated. The CAL Undiagnosed Diseases Act of 2011 requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish and maintain an undiagnosed diseases registry to facilitate the early recognition, prevention, treatment, cure, and control of such diseases. This bill was created with input from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in order to guarantee that the development and implementation of the registry will be both feasible and beneficial.

This bill will also benefit military Service Members and Veterans, who often return from combat with unexplained symptoms and medical problems. American Veterans (AMVETS), VetsFirst, and the Military Officer Association of America (MOAA) have already endorsed this bill. Please contact Kristi.Andrews@mail.house.gov with my office to become an original Co-Sponsor July 15, 2011.

Respectfully,

John Carter
Member of Congress