

Muscular Dystrophy Association

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Dear Member of the MDA Family,

On behalf of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, I'm delighted to invite you to become a part of a historic effort to increase much-needed federal support of SMA research through the passage of key SMA legislation.

MDA recently joined with other organizations within the SMA community to launch a unified campaign to work together to ensure that the "SMA Treatment Acceleration Act" gains congressional support and becomes federal law. To accomplish this goal, we need your help.

MDA's commitment to SMA research began more than 50 years ago and our dedication to discovering treatments and cures for SMA is stronger now than ever before. In the last decade, scientific advances in SMA have led to understanding the causes of most forms of spinal muscular atrophy, as well as insight into potential treatments and clinical therapies. In fact, discovery potential in this disorder is so significant that SMA has been singled out by the National Institutes of Health as the disease closest to treatment based on scientists' advanced genetic understanding of the disease. No one could ever understand the significance of potential clinical treatments for SMA better than you. Please help us deliver this message to Congress.

Please join your voice with ours and take a few minutes to contact your local elected officials and urge them to become a part of this landmark effort. *Remember, members of Congress exist to serve you and to ensure that the issues that matter to you are given utmost priority – please take the time to let your representatives know that the **SMA Treatment Acceleration Act (H.R. 3334/S.2042)** matters to you and your family.*

MDA Call to Action – Take 5!

MDA has been active in the advocacy arena for many years, including our leadership role in the passage of the MD Care Act in 2001. We're optimistic about similar success with the SMA Treatment Acceleration Act, but must also recognize that, because of the current federal budget situation, passage of new disease-specific legislation has become increasingly challenging. That's why we're asking you to *take 5 minutes* and contact your local elected officials and ask them to support the SMA Treatment Acceleration Act by signing on as a co-sponsor.

Here's how...

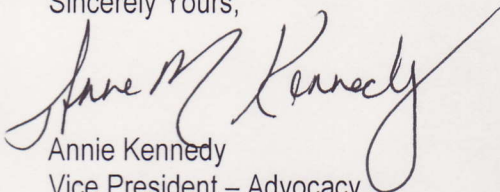
1. Identify your local elected officials by visiting www.congress.org and selecting your state and district; this information is also available in your local phone book.
2. Contact both Senators in your state, as well as the member of the House of Representatives who represents your District.

continued...

- Attached for your reference is a complete listing of Senators and Representatives who have already agreed to co-sponsor The SMA Treatment Acceleration Act.
 - When contacting your state's Senators, please refer them to "S.2042 – The SMA Treatment Acceleration Act"
 - When contacting your local member of the House of Representatives, please refer them to "H.R. 3334 – The SMA Treatment Acceleration Act".
 - You can contact your elected officials by phone, mail or email – whichever is most comfortable for you. All methods of contact are effective and will make a significant difference.
 - If you choose to call your Congresspersons' offices:
 - Ask to speak with the staff member who handles health legislation
 - Introduce yourself, share where you live, and explain that you are calling about the SMA Treatment Acceleration Act and would like to share why this legislation is so important to you and your family. Remember – your personal experience is what will make the most significant impact.
 - If you choose to mail/email your Congresspersons:
 - For your convenience we have attached sample letters and a summary of the legislation. Your personal story is what matters most.
3. Share this information with your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers. Ask them to let their elected officials know about the importance of this legislation.
 4. We would appreciate hearing about your success stories! Please share copies of your letters or let us know about your experiences by email to advocacy@mdausa.org.
 5. For more information about the legislation and to learn about progress throughout the coming weeks, please visit the Advocacy section of MDA's website at www.mda.org.

Thanks for being a part of this exciting and critical effort. Be assured that MDA, along with other members of the SMA community, is committed to ensuring that our community's voices are heard and that this important legislation receives the attention that it deserves.

Sincerely Yours,



Annie Kennedy
Vice President – Advocacy
MDA National Advocacy Office

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