

[Date]

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

[Address]

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

In December 2009, the state of New Jersey passed SCR129 memorializing the United States Congress to support increased funding for medical research for ichthyosis.

As a resident of (state), I am writing to urge you to consider proposing and/or supporting a similar bill.

I (my child, my friend, etc) have a rare skin disease called ichthyosis. Research at the NIH is key to making much needed progress in treatments and, hopefully, a cure for 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 disease comes with many physical complications, as well as, social and emotional ones.

Research on the genetics of ichthyosis and improved treatments is vitally needed. The recent doubling of the NIH budget led to great advances in genetic research for some types of ichthyosis. However, there is still much work to be done. *[personalize with a few sentences]*

Investing in research will lead to better treatments and better lives for patients living with rare diseases like ichthyosis.

Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely,

Your name