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Dear Friend,

I just wanted to let you know that I recently introduced two pieces of legislation to take Down syndrome research to the next level: *The Trisomy 21 Research Resource Act of 2011* and the *Trisomy 21 Centers of Excellence Act of 2011*.

As the mom of a child with Down syndrome, I am forever grateful to the people in the disabilities community who welcomed my family with open arms. Through them, I've learned about the potential of Down syndrome research – and not just for those who have Down syndrome, but also for those who have other conditions, as well.

Unfortunately, despite the prevalence of Down syndrome, research for a treatment and cure has lagged behind other medical conditions. The bills I've introduced would ensure that Down syndrome research remains on par with the research infrastructure of other diseases. And by taking that research to the next level, we may generate breakthroughs for those who suffer from Alzheimer's, autism, and other neurological disorders.

Today, nearly 400,000 Americans live with Down syndrome. In 2000, Congress passed the *Children's Health Act* which, among other things, authorized research for a number of conditions including juvenile diabetes, Fragile X, asthma, epilepsy, autism, and traumatic brain injuries. Down syndrome, however, was not included.

H.R. 2696, the *Trisomy 21 Research Resource Act of 2011* authorizes current efforts already underway by national patient advocacy organizations, together with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, to establish three research databases that will provide the research community with access to information that has been otherwise hard to obtain. The second bill, H.R. 2695, the *Trisomy 21 Centers of Excellence Act of 2011*, recognizes six centers of excellence around the nation that will be dedicated to conducting and coordinating translational research.

Since individuals with Down syndrome are also afflicted with a number of other medical conditions, the enhanced research will not just benefit individuals with Down syndrome, but also millions of others who are afflicted with other conditions.

One final note: On the same day I introduced my legislation, the *New York Times* ran a very interesting article, "*Drug to Treat Down Syndrome Could Be Near: As most scientific efforts focus on finding a reliable prenatal test to screen for Down syndrome, one researcher is instead looking to use medication to treat the disorder.*" There's a quote from me in the article. To read it, click [here](#).

Thank you for your interest in this issue. As always, feel free to contact me about Down syndrome or any issue you care about.

Warm regards,



Cathy

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