

Bladder Health — ALLIANCE —

April 27, 2016

The Honorable Eliot Engel
U. S. House of Representatives
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for National Bladder Health Month

Dear Rep. Engel:

We write on behalf of the undersigned organizations to **offer our support and thank you for sponsoring House Resolution 703**, which expresses support for designating November 2016 as “National Bladder Health Month.”

As you know, bladder health is an important public health issue that deserves greater visibility and public discourse. Bladder diseases and conditions, such as urinary incontinence, overactive bladder, interstitial cystitis, urinary tract infections, urotrauma, and bladder cancer, impact millions of Americans from all walks of life. Bladder ailment costs to the United States economy are estimated to be more than \$70 billion each year. They also can contribute to decreased physical activity, depression, social isolation, falls, sexual dysfunction, loss of self-esteem, hospitalizations, nursing home admissions and even death.

One of the greatest challenges in addressing bladder health is raising awareness, and your resolution is an important step in this process. Because of this increased recognition, it is our hope that we can help reduce the stigma associated with bladder conditions, and start conversations between patients and their physicians that will lead to treatments and an improved quality of life.

We are truly grateful for your leadership in advancing H. Res. 703 and your efforts to help educate the people of New York and the United States.

Sincerely,

Bladder Health Alliance

***Members of the Bladder Health Alliance:** Alliance for Aging Research; American Geriatric Society’s Health in Aging Foundation; American Urogynecologic Society; American Urological Association; Association for Pelvic Organ Prolapse Support; Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network; Blue Thong Society; Chesapeake Urology Associates; HealthyWomen; Society for the Study of Women’s Sexual Health; Interstitial Cystitis Association; Men’s Health Network; Multiple Sclerosis Association of America; Multiple Sclerosis Foundation; National Multiple Sclerosis Society; National Association for Continence; National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health; Simon Foundation for Continence; Society for Women’s Health Research; Spina Bifida Association; SUFU - Society of Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine & Urogenital Reconstruction; United Spinal Association; Urological Association of Physician Assistants; Urology Care Foundation; Veterans Health Council; Women’s Health Foundation; and the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society (WOCN).*