



National  
Multiple Sclerosis  
Society

## YOU CAN ADVOCATE TO INCREASE CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING FOR THE MS RESEARCH PROGRAM

Create your own WOW-HOW-NOW to help you do it.

### WOW: MY IMPACT STATEMENT

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**Examples:** “70,000 veterans live with MS in the United States and research shows an increased association between deployment during military service and increased risk of developing MS. We owe it to our veterans to provide funding for their care and for research that may ultimately improve their treatment.”

“The MSRP is prioritizing **urgent gaps and unmet needs like restoring lost function**. Current disease modifying treatments prevent relapses, but there’s nothing that helps me gain back the neurologic function I’ve lost.”

### HOW: IMPACT ON THE MS COMMUNITY AND POLICY MAKER’S ROLE IN THE SOLUTION

(You do not have to use all of the points below—just pick 1-2 that best support your impact statement.)

- Congress established the MSRP to address gaps in MS research, education, and care.
- The MSRP was established in 2009 and it remains the only federal research funding stream specifically for MS.
- Our ask is level funding- the MSRP received \$20 million, in FY23 and \$20 million is included in the FY24 House Defense Appropriations bill.
- Continued funding would allow for progress towards real solutions for people with MS. About 70,000 veterans live with MS in the United States. 50,000 veterans are seen at the VA MS Centers of Excellence each year.

### NOW: THE ASK FOR POLICY MAKERS

- Can we count on you to prioritize \$20 million for the MS Research Program in FY25?
- House: Will you sign the Dear Colleague letter in support?
  - Lead: Rep. Tony Cárdenas (D, CA-29) Staff: [mariah.philips@mail.house.gov](mailto:mariah.philips@mail.house.gov)
  - Rep. Lori Trahan (D, MA-3) Staff: [alexandra.karabatsos@mail.house.gov](mailto:alexandra.karabatsos@mail.house.gov)
  - Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R, PA-1) Staff: [jacqueline.baggett@mail.house.gov](mailto:jacqueline.baggett@mail.house.gov)
- House and Senate: Will you prioritize this research by submitting a program request to the Appropriations Committee requesting \$20 million for the MS Research Program?