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H.R. 3995 ADVOCACY UPDATE

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Dear VOR Friends and Choice Advocates,

Thank you very, very much for all your help calling on members of the U.S. House of Representatives to cosponsor H.R. 3995. In the short time since its introduction, four Congressmen have signed on, with many, many more expressing interest and asking for more information. As of today, cosponsors are: Capuano (D-MA), Moran (D-VA), Lynch (D-MA) and Shea-Porter (D-NH).

Your calls and letters are making a difference. Your efforts to enlist others to make calls and write letters are also beginning to make a difference.

Keep up the great work!

We must not let up on our efforts. Usually, due to the many, many issues that each Congressman and his/her staff juggle, several follow-up calls will be necessary for H.R. 3995 to get the attention it deserves. When a constituent is passionate about an issue, that issue is most likely to get the attention of a Congressman.

AN UPCOMING OPPORTUNITY

Congress will be in recess during the last 2 weeks in November. This means we have 2 advocacy opportunities:

1. District Visits: This is a great time to make an appointment with your Representative in his/her home District, back in your state. Visit <http://www.congress.org>, for District contact information.
2. DC Staff: Now through the end of November is an especially great time to get the attention of the health LA that will be dealing with this issue on behalf of the Congressmen. When Congress is not in session, staffers are likely to have a little bit more time to study H.R. 3995.

Thanks again for all your help and please keep me posted regarding your efforts. I would especially like to know if your Representative has indicated support for H.R. 3995, and I can also be helpful if staff are raising questions you need help addressing. I'm happy to help.

Thank You!

Tamie Hopp

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P.S. Very soon, I will be circulating a sign on letter for organizations (local, state and national). So, be thinking about groups you know that will be supportive of H.R. 3995 principles of individual and family choice - even outside the field of disability. Numbers count!