

## ACTION ALERT

Ask your Congressperson in the House of Representatives to cosponsor  
**H.R. 3446**, *the National Commission on Scleroderma and Fibrotic Diseases Act*.

### THE CHALLENGE

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is part of the federal government and is the world's foremost medical research entity. Annually, NIH supports research projects that advance scientific understanding of the mechanisms of various diseases, including scleroderma. Medical breakthroughs facilitated by NIH research are often what industry uses to develop new therapies, cures and diagnostic tools.

Currently, research is limited to respective institutes such as the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for pulmonary and cardio fibrosis and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) for cystic fibrosis and liver cirrhosis. All institutes should be working together to use their resources effectively for quality research.

### THE SOLUTION

Congressman Peter King (R-NY-2) and Congressman Eliot Engel (D-NY-16) introduced [H.R. 3446](#), the *National Commission on Scleroderma and Fibrotic Diseases Act*. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. *Follow the link for information about the bill and cosponsors.*

H.R. 3446 will establish a National Commission on Fibrotic Diseases within NIH to evaluate and to make recommendations regarding improvements to the coordination and advancement of NIH-supported research activities related to fibrosis and fibrotic diseases, which may include scleroderma as a prototypical condition that can cause fibrosis in various organs.

**At no additional cost to the federal government**, the *National Commission on Scleroderma and Fibrotic Diseases Act* establishes a national commission to include the following:

- Study of the incidence, duration and mortality rates of fibrotic diseases.
- Evaluate facilities and resources for the diagnosis, prevision and treatment of fibrotic diseases.
- Develop a long-range plan that establishes NIH collaboration within a working group focused on fibrotic-related research.

### IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT THIS LEGISLATION

- Bipartisan support from Democrats and Republicans.
- Budget neutral—the bill will not increase federal spending.
- Not disease specific as all fibrotic diseases (including scleroderma) will benefit.

### YOUR ROLE IN THE SOLUTION

- Congressmen King and Engel need colleagues in the House to cosponsor this important legislation. The only way your member of Congress will consider supporting this effort is if constituents officially asks them to do so. The more legislators who support and cosponsor this bill, the greater its chance to be passed into law.
- Complete the advocacy letter on the opposite side. Name, signature, mailing address, city, state and ZIP Code are required. ***Do not mail*** advocacy letters to your member of Congress. Scan and email your advocacy letter to [Goglas@hmcw.org](mailto:Goglas@hmcw.org), and it will be hand-delivered to Capitol Hill. Please do not include the **ACTION ALERT** side when scanning your completed advocacy letter.
- To schedule a meeting with your member's local office to ask them to cosponsor the bill, email Philip Goglas II at [Goglas@hmcw.org](mailto:Goglas@hmcw.org). Phil is our representative with Health and Medicine Counsel of Washington (HMCW), and he coordinates all advocacy efforts in collaboration with the Scleroderma Foundation. Your scleroderma story is what policymakers need to hear, and they want to hear from constituents! Contact [advocacy@scleroderma.org](mailto:advocacy@scleroderma.org) for talking points and tips.

Dear Health Legislative Assistant,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ . I am one of your constituents,

and I live in \_\_\_\_\_ .

Please cosponsor **H.R. 3446**, *the National Commission on Scleroderma and Fibrotic Diseases*. This budget-neutral legislation is important to me, many people in your district and others across the country who are affected by scleroderma and fibrotic illness (such as pulmonary fibrosis and liver fibrosis).

**H.R. 3446**, *the National Commission on Scleroderma and Fibrotic Diseases* will establish a national commission within NIH to evaluate, coordinate, improve and advance NIH-supported research related to fibrosis and fibrotic diseases, which may include scleroderma as a prototypical condition that can cause fibrosis in various organs. **At no additional cost to the federal government**, the *National Commission on Scleroderma and Fibrotic Diseases Act* establishes a national commission to include the following:

- Study of the incidence, duration and mortality rates of fibrotic diseases.
- Evaluate facilities and resources for the diagnosis, prevision and treatment of fibrotic diseases.
- Develop a long-range plan that establishes NIH collaboration within a working group focused on fibrotic-related research.

Please cosponsor **H.R. 3446**, *the National Commission on Scleroderma and Fibrotic Diseases Act* by contacting Deena Tauster in the office of Congressman Peter King ([Deena.Tauster@mail.house.gov](mailto:Deena.Tauster@mail.house.gov)) at 5-7896 or Sahil Chaudhary in the office of Congressman Eliot Engel ([S.Chaudhary@mail.house.gov](mailto:S.Chaudhary@mail.house.gov)) at 5-2464. Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

**Constituent Signature** \_\_\_\_\_  
*required*

**Constituent Printed Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
*required*

**Street Address/P.O. Box** \_\_\_\_\_  
*required*

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
*required* *required* *required (+4, if known)*

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_