

WHAT DO THE BILLS ACCOMPLISH?

Both measures expand existing research efforts at the NIH and foster greater coordination among NIH Institutes involved with different aspects of mitochondrial research to improve our understanding of mitochondrial disease and dysfunction and to develop treatments for mitochondrial disease.

They direct the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to establish an Office of Mitochondrial Medicine. The newly created office will be directed to improve the coordination of research related to mitochondrial medicine within the institutes at the NIH and with outside researchers. It also calls on the NIH to annually award five grants for multi project research programs related to mitochondrial medicine and five grants annually for integrated, multi project research programs related to mitochondrial medicine. In addition, both pieces of legislation call on the NIH to establish a “Mitochondrial Medicine Centers for Excellence” to promote interdisciplinary research and training related to mitochondrial medicine. The bills also call on the NIH to establish a national registry for the maintenance and sharing information for research purposes and to create a biorepository for DNA and tissues collected from patients with mitochondrial disease and dysfunction for research purposes.

WHO INTRODUCED HR 3502 and S2858?

The “**Mitochondrial Medicine Research and Treatment Enhancement Act**”, or H.R. 3502 was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on July 31, 2009, through the leadership of Rep. Jim McDermott (D-7th/WA). Its companion bill, the “**Brittany Wilkinson Mitochondrial Disease Research and Treatment Enhancement Act**” was introduced on the Senate Floor by Sen. Barbara Boxer on December 9, 2009.

Why are the bills named differently?

Senator Barbara Boxer wanted to honor the advocacy work of Brittany Wilkinson, of Clovis California. Brittany passed away in September, 2009. The Senator met Brittany several times and to honor her, she named the bill after her. There is little difference in the language between bills.

What is our Goal?

Our goal is to secure additional co-sponsors for both the House and Senate measures. Additionally, we are going to secure hearings on the bills in both the house and Senate. Click on the link below to see a complete web page on both bills, with information about current co-sponsors for each measure.

www.umdf.org/legislation

To see how many letters have been sent to each congressman or senator state by state click on this link www.umdf.org/tracksupport