



## **House Request: Please Urge the Senate to Advance Cures Immediately**

**Background:** In 2014, House Energy & Commerce (E&C) Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO) embarked on an ambitious and bipartisan effort to improve our nation's biomedical research and innovation system. In July 2015, the bill, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act (HR 6) passed the House by a wide bipartisan margin.

**The Process:** The E&C Committee convened dozens of roundtables, hearings, and opportunities for public input and comment as they set out to uncover biomedical policy challenges. This process took more than six months to complete, and involved a wide range of stakeholders, including federal agency leaders from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), patient advocates, and representatives from industry among others.

**The Provisions:** The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cure Act (HR 6) contains a wide variety of provisions critical to the rare disease community. Both the NIH and FDA were provided billions and hundreds of millions in new funding respectively, along with special mandatory funding streams. In addition, bills to encourage the development of new therapies for rare and pediatric patients were included, such as the OPEN ACT (HR 971) and the Advancing Hope Act (HR 1537).

**The Ask:** While the House has made great progress in passing HR 6, we are asking House Members to call on their Senate colleagues to pass legislation. The Senate HELP Committee has held three legislative hearings and passed many of the bills included in HR 6, but has yet to send a package to the Senate floor. Time is running out this session and for patients with rare diseases, they simply cannot afford to wait any longer. Please join with patient advocates in calling on the Senate to pass 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures.

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