



LRA TAKE IT TO THE DISTRICT – GENERAL TALKING POINTS

General points:

- Introduce yourself, where you live or work in the district, and as a representative of the Lupus Research Alliance.
- Ask if they are familiar with lupus, and know what lupus is or how it affects the body. Be prepared to briefly describe lupus as a serious potentially life-threatening autoimmune disease in which the immune system can attack any part of the body including kidneys or lungs.
- Our asks are:
 - \$15 million for the Department of Defense’s Lupus Research Program
 - \$51 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
 - Support for the Lupus Accelerating Breakthroughs Consortium (Lupus ABC)

Lupus Research at the Department of Defense (DoD)

Please support a final bill that includes at least \$15 million for the Department of Defense’s Lupus Research Program in Fiscal Year 2025.

- The number of active-duty service members and veterans diagnosed with lupus is increasing because more women and people from minority populations are serving in the military.
- The DoD’s Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) facilitates novel approaches to biomedical research that fill research gaps by funding high impact, high risk, and high gain projects.
 - Funding for the Lupus Research Program is not enough to meet the current demand. Just 18% of grant applications are awarded federal funding, demonstrating the need for increased investment in this program.

Funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Please support a final bill that provides NIH with \$51 billion in Fiscal Year 2025.

- The NIH is the largest public funder of medical research in the world, and the agency’s research has helped fund lupus breakthroughs.
- Despite highly promising results, the overall success rate for researchers obtaining an NIH grant remains low at 20%.
 - Without the support NIH can provide, lupus research is drastically slowed, sometimes stopping entirely, and information gleaned from early work is often lost.

Lupus Accelerating Breakthroughs Consortium

Please support the work of a public-private partnership with the FDA called the Lupus Accelerating Consortium that accelerates development of new therapies and include specific language in the final Fiscal Year 2025 Ag-FDA report.

- The Lupus Accelerating Breakthroughs Consortium (Lupus ABC) is the first public-private partnership with the FDA that brings together researchers, the biopharmaceutical industry, patients, and other lupus stakeholders to develop solutions to barriers that will accelerate development of new therapies.
 - This partnership ensures lupus patient’s voices are heard and is central to the development of new therapies.
- **We ask that Congress support the below report language in the final Fiscal Year 2025 Ag-FDA report.**
 - *Lupus —The Committee is aware of barriers that have long affected the development of therapeutics for lupus, a disease that disproportionately affects women of color. The Committee is pleased that FDA*

created the Lupus Accelerating Breakthroughs Consortium (ABC), a public-private partnership bringing together researchers, the biopharmaceutical industry, patients, and other lupus stakeholders to develop solutions to identified barriers that will accelerate development of new therapies. The Committee encourages FDA to continue this engagement and requests updates on efforts to improve drug development and accelerate more safe and effective treatments for people with lupus.

Wrap Up

- Consider connecting with a member of the Representative's staff and share each other's email contact information for follow-up purposes.
- Note that you are happy to answer any lupus-related questions they may have.
- If your Representative is listed below as a member of the Lupus Caucus or signed-on to the Fiscal Year 2025 Congressional Lupus Caucus Dear Colleague letter—thank them!
 - A list of representatives who are part of the Caucus and signed-on to the letter can be found below.
- Thank the staffer/member for their time.

Members of the Congressional Lupus Caucus

- Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX)
- Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA)
- Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA)
- Rep. André Carson (D-IN)
- Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX)
- Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN)
- Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)
- Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-VA)
- Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI)
- Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)
- Rep. Tom Emmer (R-MN)
- Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL)
- Rep. Andrew Garbarino (R-NY)
- Rep. Pramila Japayal (D-WA)
- Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA)
- Rep. Bill Keating (D-MA)
- Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA)
- Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)
- Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA)
- Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
- Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO)
- Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA)
- Rep. Lucy McBath (D-GA)
- Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY)
- Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA)
- Rep. Donald Norcross (D-NJ)
- Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)
- Rep. Donald Payne, Jr. (D-NJ)
- Rep. Dean Phillips (D-MN)
- Rep. Bill Posey (R-FL)
- Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD)
- Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL)
- Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA)
- Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)
- Rep. David Scott (D-GA)
- Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA)
- Rep. Darren Soto (R-FL)
- Rep. Nydia M. Velazquez (D-NY)
- Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO)
- Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL)
- Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC)

Representatives who joined the FY25 Congressional Lupus Caucus Letter

- Rep. Colin Allred (D-TX)
- Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)
- Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-NY)
- Rep. Julia Brownley (D-CA)
- Rep. Nikki Budzinski (D-IL)
- Rep. Sean Casten (D-IL)
- Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN)
- Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-VA)
- Rep. Jose Luis Correa (D-CA)
- Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA)
- Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-TX)
- Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL)
- Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO)
- Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA)

- Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)
- Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-TX)
- Rep. Biran Fitzpatrick (R-PA)
- Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL)
- Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)
- Rep. Andrew Garbarino (R-NY)
- Rep. Sylvia Garcia (D-TX)
- Rep. Jared Golden (D-ME)
- Rep. Daniel Goldman (D-NY)
- Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ)
- Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ)
- Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-CT)
- Rep. James Himes (D-CT)
- Rep. Steven Horsford (D-NV)
- Rep. Sara Jacobs (D-CA)
- Rep. Henry “Hank” Johnson (D-GA)
- Rep. William Keating (D-MA)
- Rep. Andy Kim (D-NJ)
- Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL)
- Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA)
- Rep. Michael Lawler (R-NY)
- Rep. Barabara Lee (D-CA)
- Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA)
- Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA)
- Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA)
- Rep. Lucy McBath (D-GA)
- Rep. James “Jim” McGovern (D-MA)
- Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY)
- Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA)
- Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-NY)
- Rep. Ricard Neal (D-MA)
- Del. Eleanor H. Norton (D-DC)
- Rep. Jim Panetta (D-CA)
- Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ)
- Rep. Brittany Pettersen (D-CO)
- Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA)
- Rep. Bill Posey (R-FL)
- Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD)
- Rep. Mary Scanlon (D-PA)
- Rep. Janice Schakowsky (D-IL)
- Rep. David Scott (D-GA)
- Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL)
- Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA)
- Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ)
- Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI)
- Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA)
- Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI)
- Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-NY)
- Rep. Brandon Williams (R-NY)
- Rep. Nikema Williams (D-GA)