Neurological Diseases (ND) impair the central and peripheral nervous system. Examples include Alzheimer's, Stroke, Epilepsy, Migraines, Tay Sach's, MS, Alexander Disease, ALS, Wilson Disease, Parkinson's, and Huntington's disease.

Hereditary/Genetic: Many ND have at least some genetic component, making them impossible to prevent. Examples include Epilepsy, Migraines, Tay Sach's, MS, Alexander Disease, ALS, Wilson Disease, Parkinson's, and Huntington's disease.

Fatal: Some inherited NDs result in early death. Examples include Tay Sach's, MS, Alexander Disease, ALS, Wilson Disease, Parkinson's, and Huntington's disease.

Low Prevalence: Any Disease of Condition that affects less than 200,000 persons in the US. Examples include Alexander Disease, ALS, Wilson Disease, and Huntington's disease.

Working Age Onset: Persons afflicted during prime working years and often ineligible for Medicare. Examples include ALS, Alexander Disease, and Huntington's disease.

Total Cognitive, Motor, and Behavioral Impairment: All HD individuals will require constant care, resulting in loss of job and health insurance.

Congressional efforts to end Medicare Waiting Period:

To show how differentiated HD is from other diseases, we have outlined characteristics of disease beginning with a broad class of neurological diseases and filtered this larger group by the debilitating impacts of HD.

In the past, bipartisan legislation (111th Congress) to remove the 2-year Medicare waiting period for coverage after receiving Social Security Disability for all diseases did not pass due to high estimated cost of removal ($1.13 billion per year or $113 billion over 10 years (2008 CBO)).

The HD specific bill has a projected cost of only $130 million /10 years.

We hope you will join your bi-partisan colleagues in standing up for HD families by co-sponsoring this important legislation.