**SUBJECT LINE:** Appropriations for NIDILRR - Burn Model System

**TO SEND IN BODY OF EMAIL:**

Dear Representative/Senator [INSERT LAST NAME],

**I am a <burn survivor, loved one or healthcare professional> advocating for increased funding for the Burn Injury Model Systems to add 2 additional Burn Injury Model Systems (BMS) sites across the country, update funding to account for inflation, and add additional grant opportunities to address the long-term health needs of burn survivors.** The Congressional appropriations bill that passed in 2022 included $2 million explicitly for NIDILRR to increase the annual funding for SCI and TBI model systems but lacked opportunity for the Burn Injury Model Systems. We are hopeful that when Congress passes its fiscal year 2024 appropriations bill that this additional funding will be included.

Within the last 15 years, there have been more than **425,000 people diagnosed with a burn injury** that have been discharged into the community in the United States. Despite an increase in the survival and prevalence of burn survivors and the need for services, resources, and innovative research that address the chronicity of their condition, federal funding for and the number of Burn Model Systems has remained essentially unchanged in its nearly thirty-year existence. **This is more important now than ever, as more patients are surviving severe burn injuries, with a current survival rate of 97%.**

<Share your story: Include any chronic or lifelong medical needs or support you will require from your burn injury. >

We are advocating for the following for congress appropriation committees:

* Increase the number of Burn Model Systems from 4 to 6 Centers - https://msktc.org/burn/model-system-centers. This program is long overdue for a significant increase in the number of centers and with funding that considers inflation and the considerable growth in the burn population since the induction of the BMS - **$5.25 Million annually.**
* Develop a new **funding opportunity for collaborative work** across BMS sites to address the long-term needs of the population- Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects Program: Burn Injury Model System (BMS) Centers Collaborative Research Project - **$900,000 annually.**
* Increase funding for the **Burn Model System National Data & Statistical Center (BMS-NDSC**), https://burndata.washington.edu/, which serves as the premier source of longitudinal burn injury-related statistical data in the United States - **$675,000 annually.**
* Increase funding for the **Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center (MSKTC**), https://msktc.org, the MSKTC works with the Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors and the BMS Model Systems on translating research and clinical knowledge into resources needed by the community on topics related to burn injury that are used globally - **$2 Million annually.**

I would like to ask for your support in these efforts to make sure the needs of those living with burn injury are met and continue to be met as the survivor population grows. We must help those with burn injuries to thrive not just survive.

Sincerely,

{INSERT NAME AND CONTACT INFO}