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June 19, 2008

Mr. James Gaudreau
President, New England Chapter
Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy
P.O. Box 2092
Woburn, MA 01888

Dear Mr. Gaudreau:

I write to congratulate you and the entire Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy organization for your tremendous ongoing efforts to find a treatment or cure for SMA, provide support for families, and raise awareness of SMA among professional communities and the general public. While I regret that I cannot attend the Families of SMA International Conference, I am certain that it will be a great success, and I am pleased that the event is being hosted in Boston by the New England Chapter, which I am honored to have headquartered in my Congressional District.

I am committed to joining Families of SMA in the effort to identify a treatment for this deadly disorder, the leading genetic killer of children under two years of age. Recently, I proudly became a cosponsor of the SMA Treatment Acceleration Act (H.R. 3334). This legislation has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee, on which I serve as a senior member. Working with Families of SMA and its partners in the SMA community, I look forward to standing with your organization in the effort to move this important bill through the Committee and the House of Representatives.

Please know that I truly appreciate all that you do for the children and families affected by SMA. I wish you the best of luck at the International Conference and look forward to supporting your efforts to find a treatment or cure for SMA.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress