



# Write Your Elected Officials

*Write your state and local elected representatives.  
Tell them you want viral hepatitis moved to the  
top of their health agenda.*

SAMPLE LETTER

May 12, 2015

The Honorable John Adams  
Unite States Senate  
400 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Adams: [\[or Representative for House\]](#)

I encourage you to cosponsor **[choose one & delete the other: [HR 1101 \(for House\)](#) or [SB 1287\(for Senate\)](#)]**, The Viral Hepatitis Testing Act of 2015. This important legislation establishes, promotes, and implements hepatitis B (HBV) and hepatitis C (HCV) screening and testing programs at state, local, territorial, and tribal levels. Most Americans with HBV or HCV remain unaware of their status, and this legislation aims to increase to 75% the proportion of people chronically infected who are aware of their infection by 2016. Currently, only an estimated 25% of people chronically infected with HCV and 35% of people chronically infected with HBV have ever been diagnosed. Early diagnosis of HBV and HCV is critical for preventing and managing the most serious effects of chronic viral hepatitis infection, such as liver cancer and liver failure.

The Viral Hepatitis Testing Act of 2015 amends the Public Health Service Act to increase hepatitis prevention and control activities. It affects people at risk for and chronically infected with hepatitis B and C by increasing:

- education for patients and health care providers,
- access to hepatitis testing and liver cancer prevention screening,
- support for viral hepatitis prevention and education programs across the U.S.

An estimated 5.3 million people living in the United States are infected with either HBV or HCV. At least 2% of the people in your district are living with one of these chronic diseases.

## **YOUR STORY HERE** (See [Tips on writing Congress](#))

The cost implications of HBV and HCV today and in the future are enormous. Much of this future cost is avoidable with earlier diagnosis and intervention. A modest investment in education and testing programs today will bend the cost curve associated with these serious epidemics, containing the spiraling medical costs of end-stage liver disease and saving the lives of Americans living with these silent killers.

We urge you to make liver cancer prevention a leading health priority in Congress through expanding screening and testing for hepatitis B and hepatitis C. Please support the Viral Hepatitis Testing Act of 2015.

Sincerely,

Jane Doe  
Street address  
City, State, Zip Code

**Advocacy Tool Kit** Write Your Elected Officials Sample Letter

