

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

February 28, 2008

## Support Borderline Personality Disorder Awareness Month

Dear Colleague,

We write to urge you to cosponsor H. Res. 1005, a resolution supporting the designation of May as Borderline Personality Disorder Awareness Month. This resolution acknowledges the pressing burden of those afflicted with borderline personality disorder, confirms the widespread prevalence of this disorder, and seeks to spread awareness of this under-recognized, and often misunderstood, mental illness.

Borderline personality disorder centers on the inability to manage emotions effectively. Ten percent of individuals with borderline personality disorder take their own lives, making this disorder a leading cause of suicide. Symptoms include destructive impulsiveness, rage, marked shifts in mood, bodily self-harm, chaotic relationships, substance abuse, and unstable self-identity.

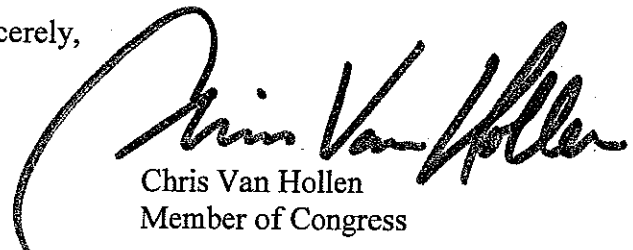
Officially recognized in 1980 by the psychiatric community, borderline personality disorder is at least two decades behind in research, treatment options, and education compared to other serious mental illnesses. While some persons with this disorder are high functioning in certain settings, their private lives are often in turmoil. Others are unable to work and require financial support.

Please join us in cosponsoring H. Res. 1005, a resolution seeking to spread awareness of this disorder and the plight of those affected by it. To cosponsor this legislation please contact Sean Carney ([sean.carney@mail.house.gov](mailto:sean.carney@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Davis' office or Ray Thorn ([ray.thorn@mail.house.gov](mailto:ray.thorn@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Van Hollen's office.

Sincerely,



Tom Davis  
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress