

**Public Comment**  
**Anonymous**

To the CFSAC and Department of Health and Human Services,

I got ME/CFS 7 years ago while in graduate school. Although I have training to get a job as a public school teacher in Texas, I'm not able to predict on any given day how much energy I will have and thus am not able to keep a steady schedule and work. This not only affects me and my family, but denies the students of this country a teacher who left a higher paying corporate job because of his passion to help others achieve and succeed. As a single male, it is hard to have a relationship or family since I'm not able to predict when I will have energy, thus rendering me unable to support myself or others. Because of this, isolation has become a significant part of my life. I'm here asking for myself and for this country that more research funds be allocated to cure this illness.

Beyond the humanitarian aspect, considering the economic impact, current community-based surveys estimate that over 800,000 U.S. adults have this illness<sup>1</sup>. In June of 2013, the medium household income in the U.S. was \$52,100<sup>2</sup>. When this illness gets solved, using the unemployment rate of 7.3%<sup>3</sup>, this country will be employing 741,600 more people. The total annual revenue of this many people multiplied by a medium income of \$52,100 would equal \$38,637,360,000 in taxable income, equaling (at a tax rate of 25% for this income level) \$9,659,340,000 more in tax revenue for the United States. At a minimum, if even a little more than half of these people would be working, that would be close to \$5,000,000,000 more in tax revenue for the United States every year! At this time a mere \$5 million per year is being allocated for CFS research<sup>4</sup>. Why not spend instead, at the least, \$50 million and possibly receive \$5 billion per year in tax revenue (100 times as much every year) in return? Let's spend the money to solve it now and then it will no longer be a disability, which is also costing our country money. If this had been addressed 10 or 20 years ago, I might not have to be writing this letter now. Let's hope that our sons and daughters won't need to be writing this same letter in 10 years, because nobody acted now. I'm ready to get back to work, to help this country, and am asking you, as our representatives, to help us to do that.

Sincerely,

A concerned ME/CFS Patient

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<sup>1</sup> Cfids.org

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/22/us/politics/us-median-income-rises-but-is-still-6-below-its-2007-peak.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/22/us/politics/us-median-income-rises-but-is-still-6-below-its-2007-peak.html?_r=0)

<sup>3</sup> <http://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LNS14000000>

<sup>4</sup> [http://report.nih.gov/categorical\\_spending.aspx](http://report.nih.gov/categorical_spending.aspx)