

CONGRESSIONAL HEPATITIS CAUCUS

The **Congressional Hepatitis Caucus** serves as a resource for Members and staff on issues and research related to the prevention and treatment of viral hepatitis. The Caucus works with leading health officials, experts, community leaders, and individuals affected by viral hepatitis to address this epidemic, which is causing a rise in deaths at a time when the fatalities of most other infectious diseases have stabilized or are falling.

Viral hepatitis is inflammation of the liver caused by an infection that, if left untreated, can lead to cirrhosis, liver cancer, and death. The CDC estimates that up to 5.3 million people in the U.S. live with chronic hepatitis B (HBV) or hepatitis C (HCV), and the rates of infection are rising. Since HBV and HCV have few or no early symptoms, more than half of people infected are unaware that they are infected until they develop irreversible liver damage or liver cancer later in life. Hepatitis A (HAV) cases are also on the rise. Despite the availability of an HAV and HBV vaccine and an HCV cure, viral hepatitis cases remain steady. Viral hepatitis disproportionately affects racial/ethnic minorities, baby boomers, people who use drugs, people experiencing homelessness, people with diabetes, and men.

119th Congress Co-Chairs



**REP. NYDIA
VELÁZQUEZ
(NY-7)**



**REP. HANK
JOHNSON
(GA-4)**

We hope you will join the Hepatitis Caucus to build awareness, promote early treatment, and advocate for preventive measures to eliminate viral hepatitis.

For additional information and to join, please email Rumer.LeGendre@mail.house.gov in Rep. Nydia Velázquez's office.