

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 a HAV and HBV vaccine and HCV cure, viral hepatitis cases are rising in the setting of the opioid epidemic. Viral hepatitis disproportionately affects racial/ethnic minorities, baby boomers, people who use drugs, people experiencing homelessness, people with diabetes, and men.

117th Congress Co-Chairs



**REP. GRACE
MENG (NY-6)**



**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: Michelle.Schein@mail.house.gov in Rep. Grace Meng's office or Jocilyn.Gilbert@mail.house.gov in Rep. Hank Johnson's office.