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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 11, 1973

JOHN H. HOLLOMAN III
CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California 94305

Dear Professor Lederberg:

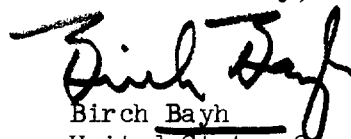
As you may know, I have been active in fundraising efforts for Multiple Sclerosis and Huntington's Disease. Recently Marjorie Guthrie, National Executive Secretary of the Committee to Combat Huntington's Disease, suggested that a more effective method of combatting these diseases would be to authorize a general research program for all genetic diseases.

Mrs. Guthrie mentioned you as a leader in the field of genetics; therefore, I am writing to solicit your specific views, as well as any background material available, on the need for a coordinated approach to genetic diseases. I am also interested in your specific suggestions for needed legislation in this area. For instance, if a general research program is advisable, should it be run by the National Institute of Health? Secondly, would federal research, or a grant program encouraging private research be more effective?

Obviously, any legislation which I might introduce would meet stiff opposition from the Administration in view of the recent cutbacks in general research funds for health. However, I am still interested in encouraging Congressional debate on such an important subject.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or write my Legislative Assistant, Judy Harris.

Most sincerely,



Birch Bayh
United States Senator