



Statement for the Congressional Record Submitted by Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer September 12, 2017

Mr. President, today is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of the Foundation and encouraging more research, better access to care, and improved treatments for patients with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

The New York-based Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, along with its partnering chapters across the country, is the largest national voluntary health group seeking the cure for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. It also works to improve the quality of life of children and adults affected by these diseases.

One in every 200 Americans struggle with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, collectively known as inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD). Although no cause has been identified for Crohn's disease, recent research suggests hereditary, genetics, and/or environmental factors contribute to the development of the disease. Further complicating matters, ulcerative colitis is the result of an abnormal response by the body's immune system.

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation sponsors basic and clinical research of the highest quality and offers a wide range of educational programs and supportive services for patients and healthcare professionals. In 2015, IBD Plexus was launched. IBD Plexus is a groundbreaking initiative that provides the infrastructure and capacities to facilitate and accelerate research into the causes and treatments of Crohn's Disease and ulcerative colitis.

Federal Agencies such as the National Institutes of Health through the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control and Prevention, and the Department of Defense each support meaningful research and public health activities on Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. Furthermore, the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services both play a significant role in approving new treatments and facilitating health care financing policies that impact patients with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

I deeply appreciate the work of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation and its longstanding dedication to the patients it represents. They have endeavored to improve the quality of life of so many Americans, and the U.S. Senate recognizes the Foundation's 50th anniversary.