



March 16, 2018

### **A Statement from ASHG on the Passing of Rep. Louise Slaughter**

The American Society of Human Genetics is saddened to learn of the passing of Representative Louise Slaughter (D-NY) on Thursday, March 15. Her loss is felt deeply by the research community, and we express our condolences to her family and community.

“Rep. Slaughter was a tireless advocate for biomedical research and genetics research specifically, and a visionary in establishing protections against genetic discrimination,” said ASHG President David L. Nelson, PhD. Because of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, which she authored and championed from its introduction in 1995 through its passage in 2008, all Americans are protected against genetic discrimination and can participate in genetics research or undergo a genetic test in the doctor’s office without fear.

A microbiologist by training, Rep. Slaughter was, throughout her congressional career, a great champion for science and STEM education more broadly, and she worked on a bipartisan basis to advance the foundational role of research to improve the health and well-being of millions of Americans. ASHG had the privilege of working closely with Rep. Slaughter’s office over the years on science policy issues. She was also a mentor to several emerging genetics policy specialists through the ASHG/NHGRI Genetics & Public Policy Fellowship.

“Our thoughts are with Rep. Slaughter’s family and community during this difficult time,” said Dr. Nelson. “Her passing is a great loss for the science community and for our nation; we look forward to continuing to support the vision she shared for research and genetics.”