



APLASTIC ANEMIA & MDS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.
Fighting Bone Marrow Diseases through Patient Support & Research Since 1983

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**Foundation Expresses Condolences to Family and Friends of
Congressman Robert Matsui**

Annapolis, MD - The Aplastic Anemia & MDS International Foundation, the world's leading advocacy and information organization for families suffering from bone marrow failure diseases, expressed its deepest condolences to the family and friends of U.S. Representative Robert Matsui (D-CA), who died yesterday from complications resulting from myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS).

"MDS can strike anyone at any given time in their lives," explained Marilyn Baker, the Executive Director of the Foundation. "Every year, approximately 20,000 to 30,000 Americans are diagnosed with this bone marrow disorder. Thanks to advances in medical research and improved treatments, our Foundation is hopeful. However, in light of the demographic imperative, as our population ages, it is essential for additional federal government and National Institutes of Health funding to be put in place for continued research of treatments and the search for cures."

Over the last decade, nearly half a million Americans have been struck by bone marrow failure disorders, including MDS, aplastic anemia and paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH). In most cases the cause of the disease is unknown, but studies have shown that exposure to a variety of toxins, chemicals, medications, viruses, diseases, and pregnancy.

Symptoms can include severe bruising, heavy fatigue, uncontrollable bleeding, and susceptibility to infections. A simple blood test can alert doctors to the fact that there is a problem. Effective treatment options are available but aplastic anemia and the other bone marrow failure diseases still remain life threatening for many.

The Aplastic Anemia & MDS International Foundation (www.aamds.org), which has supported patients, families, caregivers, health care providers, and researchers for more than 20 years, is playing a vital role in promoting research that leads to a cure. The Foundation is advocating before Congress, and the National Institutes of Health and other federal agencies to raise greater awareness about these disorders and increase funding for research of treatments and the search for cures.

"Congressman Matsui was a champion for health, science and innovation," stated Baker. "The families who comprise our Foundation hope that Congress honors his life by continuing his efforts to fight for cures of chronic diseases."

Aplastic Anemia & MDS International Inc is a non-profit charitable organization as described under the Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(c)(3).