

October 6, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McCarthy, and Minority Leader McConnell:

We, the undersigned organizations urge you to work toward the enactment of the fiscal year 2022 Defense Appropriations Act, to ensure that the Defense Health Research Programs, including the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP), are fully funded in fiscal year 2022.

Our organizations appreciate recent actions by Congress to pass a short-term continuing resolution to extend federal agencies and programs through December 3, 2021. However, we are particularly concerned about the possibility of Congress enacting a year-long continuing resolution in lieu of completing the fiscal year 2022 Defense Appropriations Act. Under a year-long continuing resolution **the CDMRP would receive no funding in fiscal year 2022**. Failure to enact the Defense Appropriations Act will have major negative health implications for the millions of Americans – especially veterans, military service members and their families – who live with chronic and debilitating disorders. This will delay important new discoveries and translation of medical innovation into new treatments and cures for many disorders.

We collectively represent millions of American veterans, military retirees, military families, and civilians who benefit from the ongoing research funded by the Defense Health Research Programs at the Department of Defense (DoD). We have worked tirelessly to advocate for continued funding for the programs, and we were pleased to see that the House version of the fiscal year 2022 Defense Appropriations Act includes strong funding levels for medical research.

The Defense Health Research Programs will be unable to fully prepare for the fiscal year 2022 grant solicitation process until they receive a fully-enacted fiscal year 2022 budget. The CDMRP annually receives more than 12,000 pre-applications and 7,000 full applications for grants and undergoes a rigorous process to evaluate and fund the best of these applications. Further delay in enacting the fiscal year 2022 appropriations bill will create unnecessary disruption with internal processes at DoD.

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These delays will have systemic impacts on the way the DoD convenes programmatic panels to identify and implement programmatic changes and peer-review panels to provide thorough review of grant applications, and ultimately impact the ability of the DoD to conduct appropriate negotiations to award fiscal year 2022 grants. Further, failure to enact a fully-funded fiscal year 2022 budget will compromise the ability of scientific laboratories across the U.S to effectively plan and prepare the highest quality grant applications, potentially diminishing opportunities to maintain discovery-based research programs and disrupting critical scientific workforces.

The CDMRP is a critical component of the Defense Appropriations Act, and failure to enact this legislation will have a devastating impact on the program. Aside from the obvious biomedical and economic consequences of such actions, such as stalling or eliminating the critical development of new and more effective therapies that lower costs and save lives, failure to enact will interrupt important pipelines that have allowed investigators at U.S. medical research institutions to build careers and act on new and innovative medical research ideas.

We therefore urge you to work together in a bipartisan, bicameral spirit and enact the fiscal year 2022 Defense Appropriations Act.

Sincerely,

ALS Association  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Association for Cancer Research  
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research  
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association  
American Brain Tumor Association  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Rheumatology  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Urological Association  
Aplastic Anemia and MDS International Foundation  
APS Foundation of America, Inc  
Arthritis Foundation  
Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization

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Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
Beyond Celiac  
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network  
Blue Faery: The Adrienne Wilson Liver Cancer Association  
Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis  
Cancer ABCs  
Celiac Disease Foundation  
Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation  
Children's Tumor Foundation  
Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation  
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation  
Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR)  
Colorectal Cancer Alliance  
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation  
CURE Epilepsy  
Cure HHT  
Deadliest Cancers Coalition  
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer  
Duke Health  
Duke University  
Dup15q Alliance  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Epilepsy Leadership Council  
Esophageal Cancer Action Network  
FD/MAS Alliance  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
FORCE – Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered  
Foundation to Eradicate Duchenne  
Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC)  
Global Liver Institute  
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
HIV Medicine Association  
Hope for Stomach Cancer  
Hydrocephalus Association  
Indiana University  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
International Foundation for CDKL5 Research  
International Myeloma Foundation  
International Pemphigus and Pemphigoid Foundation  
Johns Hopkins University

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KidneyCAN  
Kidney Cancer Association  
The LAM Foundation  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Living Beyond Breast Cancer  
LUNgevity Foundation  
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.  
Lupus Foundation of America  
Lupus Research Alliance  
Malecare Cancer Support  
Melanoma Research Foundation  
Men's Health Network  
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation  
Miami Project to Cure Paralysis  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research  
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer Coalitions  
National Autism Association  
National Brain Tumor Society  
National Fragile X Foundation  
National MS Society  
Neurofibromatosis Midwest  
Neurofibromatosis Network  
Neurofibromatosis Northeast  
North American Spinal Cord Injury Consortium  
Northeastern University  
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy  
PKD Foundation  
Prostate Cancer Clinical Trials Consortium (PCCTC)  
Prostate Cancer Foundation  
Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation  
Quinism Foundation  
Scleroderma Foundation  
Sgt. Sullivan Circle  
SHEPHERD Foundation  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
Society for Neuroscience  
Solve M.E.  
St. Baldrick's Foundation

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Susan G. Komen  
Texas NF Foundation  
TSC Alliance  
University of Iowa  
Vasculitis Foundation  
Veterans for Common Sense  
VHL Alliance  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
Weill Cornell Medicine  
ZERO-The End of Prostate Cancer

cc: House and Senate Committee on Appropriations