

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2015

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky:

In recognition of America's veterans and others living with Parkinson's disease, we respectfully request your support for the Peer-Reviewed Neurotoxin Exposure Treatment Parkinson's Research (NETPR) program again this year. We are requesting robust funding for the NETPR program at the U.S. Army Telemedicine & Advanced Technology Research Center under the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 (RDT&E, Medical Advanced Technology).

Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurological disorder for which there is no cure or current treatment to slow or stop progression of the disease. It is estimated that nearly 80,000 veterans have Parkinson's disease and that the economic burden of Parkinson's is at least \$14.4 billion a year in the U.S. Without intervention, the prevalence of Parkinson's is expected to more than double by the year 2040. Both in terms of cost and the health of our military and the general public, the economic impact of the disease and rising prevalence can be mitigated through invaluable research that continues to unlock the mysteries of the disease.

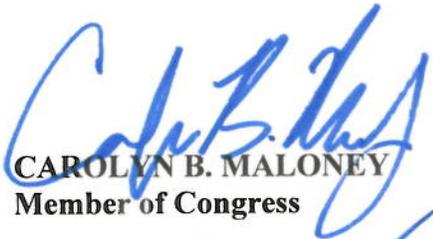
This forward-looking national grant program funds provides the Department of Defense (DoD) with innovations in materiel design, avoidance protocols for unnecessary harmful exposures, and pathways to develop treatments to prevent damage in the first place. The NETPR program provided the original basis for the current DoD program in traumatic brain injury (TBI), including initial research efforts on biomarkers of head injury; significantly advanced understanding of the biochemical basis of depression affecting soldiers; and is providing the genetic basis for neurodegenerative disease risk to the aging veteran as a consequence of military risk factors, such as TBI and chemical exposure. As a result, the Veterans Administration has begun to recognize the linkage between TBI events and the onset of Parkinson's by recently making parkinsonism a secondary service connected disease when a veteran has suffered a moderate to severe TBI as a result of service. Continued research in this area, including better understanding the link between genetics and exposures, will be critical in our preparations and care for future generations of military personnel.

We urge the Subcommittee to continue its support of this innovative and dual-use research program, which is relevant to the warfighter as well as the larger Parkinson's disease community, and recognize the need to bolster innovation to meet the emerging demand of a new generation

NETPR, 1

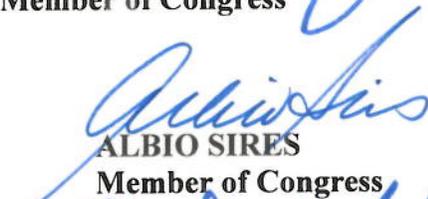
of soldiers coming home from war. We appreciate your consideration of this request to provide the NETPR program with robust funding in FY 2016.

Sincerely,

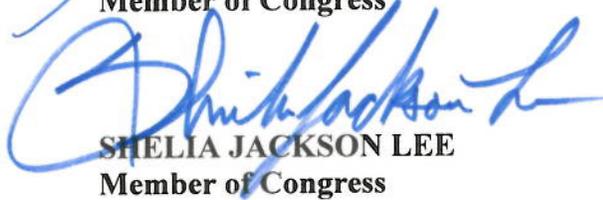

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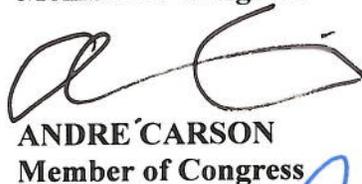

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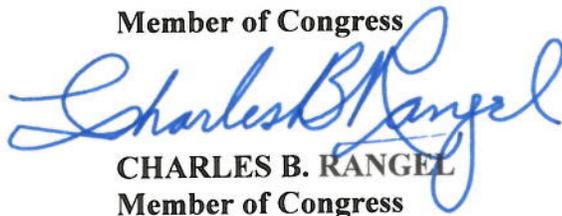

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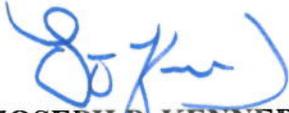
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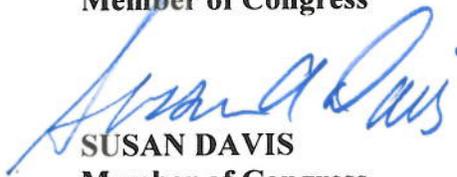
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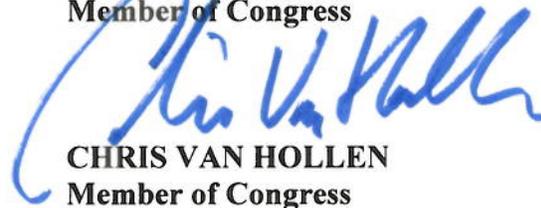


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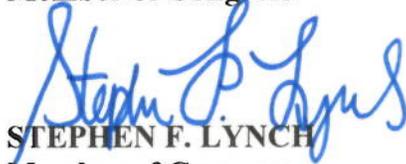

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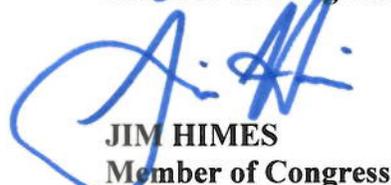

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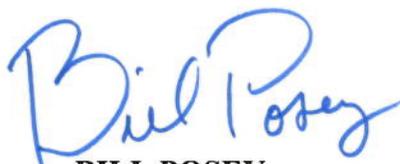

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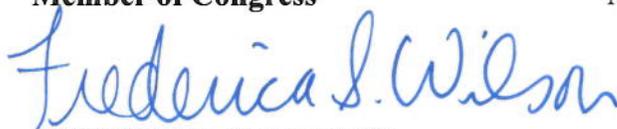

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