

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 25, 2015

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky:

We respectfully request that you support funding for kidney cancer research and specifically ask that you provide \$15 million within the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) for this purpose in the Fiscal Year 2016 Defense Appropriations bill.

We would also like to thank you for adding kidney cancer to the Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Research Programs, which, since 2006, has resulted in kidney cancer research grants valued at \$7.5 million, providing significant research for this cancer. For example, a recent award went to Srikanth Singamaneni, Ph.D., Washington University, to design and demonstrate a simple and inexpensive urine test to be performed in a physician's office for the detection of kidney cancer at a very early stage. However, there have been far more applications for the research program than there is funding available. We very much appreciate the Committee's past support and believe an investment through CDMRP would make a tremendous difference to many Americans, including our military veterans.

In 2015, kidney cancer will lead to an estimated 14,080 deaths (9,070 men and 5,010 women) and 61,560 new diagnoses (38,270 men and 23,290 women), making it the ninth most common cancer in the United States. However, it is the fourth leading cancer among both African American males and Hispanic males.

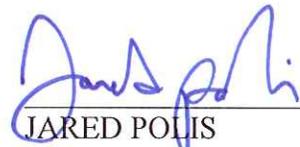
A recent study indicated that kidney cancer is the 6<sup>th</sup> most common cancer among VA patients. In addition, renal cancer occurs almost twofold more frequently in males than in females and approximately 80% of military personnel are males. This indicates that renal cancer is a serious health concern for military veterans. Given this disease burden in the U.S. veteran population, we believe it is appropriate to have the Department of Defense provide research funding necessary to develop innovative treatment options to combat this deadly disease.

Mortality rates for kidney cancer patients are disturbingly high due to the absence of screening techniques to provide early diagnosis coupled with the limited treatments that are currently available. While there is currently only one FDA-approved drug for metastatic kidney cancer that has shown any durable response, and that for only 6% of patients, targeted therapies have been developed for this disease in recent years. After showing efficacy in kidney cancer patients, these drugs have gone on to be tested on other cancer. So, an investment in kidney cancer research benefits many other types of cancer. For example, one drug first tested and approved by the FDA for kidney cancer has been in clinical trials for 27 other cancers. However, unlike other forms of cancer, no therapy currently exists to prevent the recurrence of kidney cancer for patients in remission.

The National Cancer Institute estimates that approximately \$3.8 billion is spent in the United States each year on treatment of kidney cancer. It deserves dedicated research funding supported by the Department of Defense Appropriations bill. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

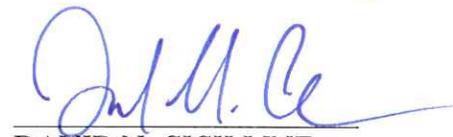
  
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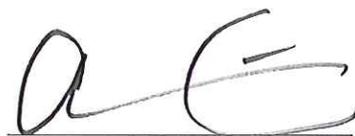
  
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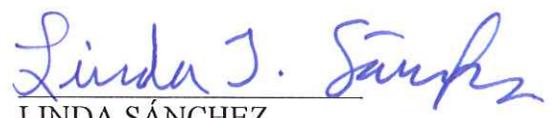
  
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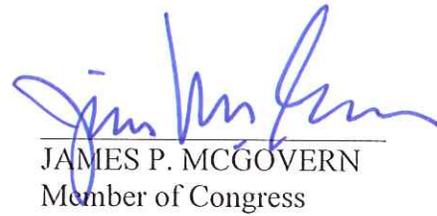
  
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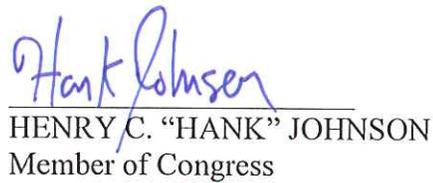
  
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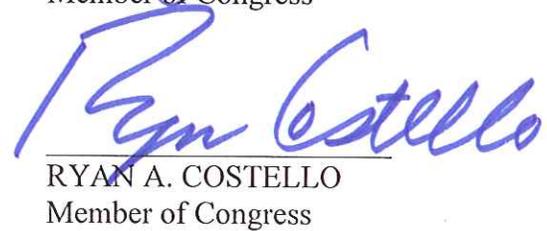
  
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