

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2015

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky,

We write to respectfully request that you provide level funding of \$50 million for the Peer-Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) in the Fiscal Year 2016 Defense Appropriations bill.

Created by Congress in Fiscal Year 2009, the PRCRP fosters groundbreaking cancer research relevant to service members and their families. Cancers eligible to compete for funding under this program since its inception have included melanoma, pediatric brain tumors, kidney cancer, colorectal cancer, pancreatic cancer, stomach cancer, lymphoma, and mesothelioma. We also urge the Committee to maintain eligibility for these cancers in FY 2016.

Longitudinal studies have found that cancer incidence among service members and their families differ substantially from the overall population. For example, Department of Defense-published data shows that the military population has a higher incidence of melanoma, likely due to hazardous environments and intense sun exposure during deployments.

According to projections by the Congressional Budget Office, healthcare costs for DOD will rise from \$48 billion in 2014 to \$70 billion in 2028—even after the United States reduces its military presence in recent Middle East conflicts. These high costs for medical care underscore the importance of the Department's investment in ground-breaking research that encourages better prevention, earlier detection, and more effective treatment for cancers that affect military personnel and their families.

The PRCRP already helps the military medical community better understand cancer among its patients. In recent years, the program has funded important studies that investigate the risk factors for melanoma and other cancers for service members, and determine the effect of chronic stress on the long-term health and well being of service members.

Continued funding for the PRCRP will build on this important progress and cultivate a better understanding of the unique impact of cancer on the military community.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. We would appreciate your support in providing \$50 million for the Peer-Reviewed Cancer Research Program in the Fiscal Year 2016 Defense Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress



MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress



SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress



CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress



ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress

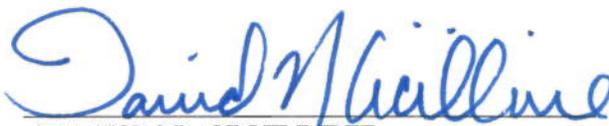

BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress

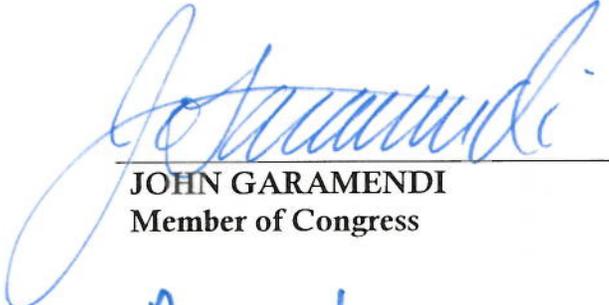

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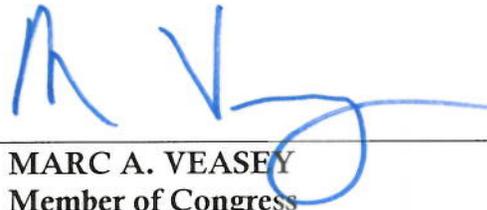

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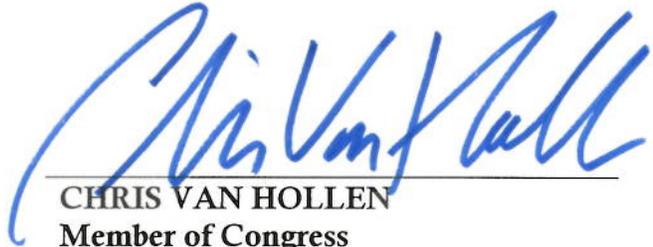
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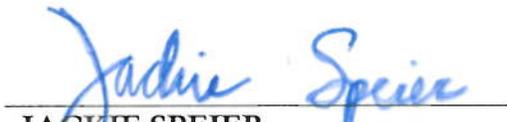
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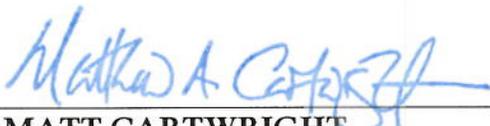


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WM. LACY CLAY
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CHERI BUSTOS
Member of Congress



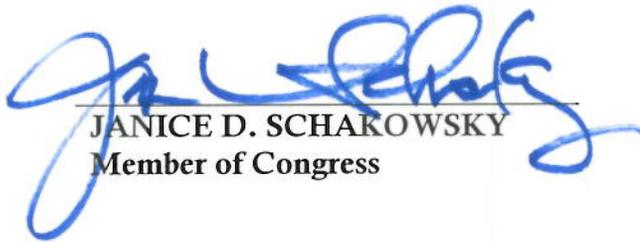
ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Member of Congress



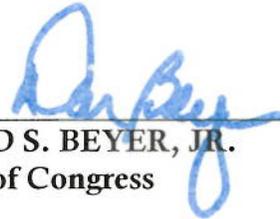
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