

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2015

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
2328 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky:

We appreciate the Subcommittee's leadership in allocating \$12 million for the Peer Reviewed Alzheimer's Program in the fiscal year (FY) 2015 Defense Appropriations Bill and respectfully request that the Subcommittee maintain stable funding in the FY16 bill.

The Peer Reviewed Alzheimer's Research funding supports innovative, dual use research that is relevant to the warfighter as well as to the larger Alzheimer's community. Such research would include:

- Investigation into people at high risk of developing Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), or cognitive impairment;**
- Development of DNA and cell banks;**
- Neuropsychological testing;**
- Completion of Genome-Wide Association Studies; and**
- Neuroimaging.**

As you are aware, Alzheimer's exacts a tremendous personal and economic toll on the individual, family and society. Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death in the United States, and costs Americans \$150 billion annually in Medicare and Medicaid programs alone. The costs of unpaid care are estimated to be more than \$200 billion annually, as more Americans – including members of our US military– must leave their jobs and other commitments to devote time to caregiving.

Further, active duty military members and veterans, especially those who have served in recent years, are particularly vulnerable to Alzheimer's disease. Traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) – signature injuries of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan – have been linked to an increased risk of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. A 2010 cohort study of more than 180,000 veterans from the Veteran's Administration National Patient Care Database found that those diagnosed with PTSD were more than twice as likely to develop dementia.

Alzheimer's disease and related dementias will increase exponentially as the baby boom generation ages, posing an ongoing threat to our servicemen and women and their families. Accordingly, we believe that Alzheimer's research is both a necessary and smart investment that will increase military readiness, improve morale, and enable us to develop quality care and treatment for active duty servicemembers and veterans.

Thank you for your time and attention to this request. Should the subcommittee have questions regarding this request, please contact Katherine Talalas with Rep. Smith or Emily Burns with Rep. Garamendi.

Sincerely,



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek, M.D.
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
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André Carson
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Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress


Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

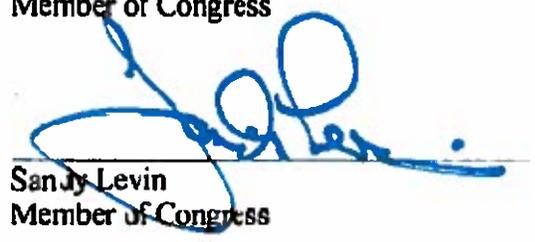

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