November 21, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi The Honorable Charles Schumer

Speaker of the House Majority Leader, U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20515 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy The Honorable Mitch McConnell

Minority Leader Minority Leader

U.S. House of Representatives U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20515 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 2023 Defense Appropriations Act, to ensure full funding levels for the Defense Health Research Programs, including the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP). We collectively represent millions of American veterans, military retirees, military families, and civilians who benefit from the ongoing research funded by the CDMRP.

Our organizations appreciate recent actions by Congress to pass a short-term continuing resolution to extend federal agencies and programs through December 16, 2022. However, we are particularly concerned about the possibility of Congress enacting additional short-term continuing resolutions that would delay final consideration of the appropriations bills until next year. Failure to enact the Defense Appropriations Act this year 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. Further delay will impede important new discoveries and translation of medical innovation into new treatments and cures for many disorders.

Every year, CDMRP engages in a rigorous process of vision setting, solicitation of proposals, and a two-step scientific and consumer review of applications submitted for consideration. 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 2023 Defense Appropriations Act 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 2023 grants.

Further, failure to enact a fully-funded fiscal year 2023 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.

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The CDMRP is a critical component of the Defense Appropriations Act, and failure to enact this legislation will have a devastating impact on the programs. 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 2023 Defense Appropriations Act.

Sincerely,

Action to Cure Kidney Cancer

ALS Association

American Academy of Dermatology Association

American Academy of Neurology

American Academy of Ophthalmology

American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research

American Brain Tumor Association

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American College of Rheumatology

American Gastroenterological Association

American Lung Association

American Psychological Association

American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

American Society for Reproductive Medicine

American Urological Association

Aplastic Anemia and MDS International Foundation

APS Foundation of America, Inc.

Arthritis Foundation

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Autoimmune Association

Beyond Celiac

Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network

Blue Faery: The Adrienne Wilson Liver Cancer Association

Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis

CancerABCs

Celiac Disease Foundation

Children’s Cardiomyopathy Foundation

Children’s Tumor Foundation

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Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation

Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation

Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR)

Connect Melanoma

CURE Epilepsy

Cure HHT

CureSHANK

Danny Did Epilepsy Foundation

Deadliest Cancers Coalition

Debbie’s Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer

Duke Health

Duke University

Dup15q Alliance

Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association of America

ECAN Esophageal Cancer Action Network, Inc.

Epilepsies Action Network

Epilepsy Alliance America

Epilepsy Foundation

Epilepsy Leadership Council

FD/MAS Alliance

Fibroid Foundation

Fight Colorectal Cancer

FORCE – Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered

Foundation to Eradicate Duchenne

Global Liver Institute

GO2 For Lung Cancer

Hepatitis B Foundation

Hope for Stomach Cancer

HunterSeven Foundation

Hydrocephalus Association

Indiana University

Infectious Diseases Society of America

International Myeloma Foundation

Johns Hopkins University

KidneyCAN

Kidney Cancer Association

The LAM Foundation

Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome (LGS) Foundation

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Littlest Tumor Foundation

Living Beyond Breast Cancer

LUNGevity Foundation

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Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.

Melanoma Research Foundation

Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation

The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

Miami Project to Cure Paralysis

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

Neurofibromatosis Midwest

Neurofibromatosis Network

Neurofibromatosis Northeast

North American Spinal Cord Injury Consortium (NASCIC)

Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance

Pancreatic Cancer Action Network

Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery Alliance

Penn State University

Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation

Project 8p Foundation

Prostate Cancer Clinical Trials Consortium (PCCTC)

Prostate Cancer Foundation

Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation

Quinism Foundation

Rare Epilepsy Network (REN) Coordinating Committee

Research!America

Sgt. Sullivan Circle

SHEPHERD Foundation

Sjögren’s Foundation

Society of Gynecologic Oncology

Solve M.E.

St. Baldrick's Foundation

Stony Brook University

Susan G. Komen

SynGAP Research Fund

SYNGAP1 Foundation

Texas NF

TSC Alliance

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Vasculitis Foundation

Veteran Warriors

Veterans for Common Sense

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VHL Alliance

Washington State University

Weill Cornell Medicine

ZERO-The End of Prostate Cancer

cc: House and Senate Committee on Appropriations