November 21, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
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.

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

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

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

VHL Alliance
Washington State University
Weill Cornell Medicine
ZERO-The End of Prostate Cancer

cc: House and Senate Committee on Appropriations