

December 2, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader Jeffries, and Minority Leader McConnell:

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to work toward the enactment of the fiscal year 2025 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 active duty military service members, veterans, military families and retirees, and civilians who benefit from the ongoing research funded by the CDMRP.

Our organizations appreciate actions by Congress to pass a short-term continuing resolution to extend federal agencies and programs through December 20, 2024. 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. Even worse, a period of government shutdown would completely halt all operations of CDMRP and be highly disruptive to plans for soliciting, reviewing and evaluating grant applications and administering existing awards.

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 infection-associated, 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 peer and programmatic 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 2025 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 2025 grants.

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Further, failure to enact a fully-funded fiscal year 2025 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 legislation 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 2025 Defense Appropriations Act.

Sincerely,

ALS Association
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Neurology
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Rheumatology
American Gastroenterological Association
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society of Hematology
American Urological Association (AUA)
Amputee Coalition
Aplastic Anemia and MDS International Foundation
APS Foundation of America, Inc.
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
BDSRA foundation
Beyond Celiac
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network
Blue Faery: The Adrienne Wilson Liver Cancer Association
Brown University
Celiac Disease Foundation
CFC International
Children's Tumor Foundation
Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Coalition to Cure CHD2

Connect Melanoma
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
CSNK2A1 FOUNDATION
CSNK2B FOUNDATION
CTNNB1 Connect and Cure
CURE Epilepsy
CURE GABA-A
Cure HHT
Cure SMA
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer
Debra of America
Defense Health Research Consortium
DLG4 SHINE Foundation
Duke University
Empowering Epilepsy
Epilepsies Action Network (EAN)
Epilepsy Alliance America
Epilepsy Foundation of America
Epilepsy Leadership Council
FD/MAS Alliance
Fibroid Foundation
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Food Allergy Science Initiative
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
Foundation to Eradicate Duchenne
Friends and Family Against Prostate Cancer
Glut1 Deficiency Foundation
GNB1 Advocacy Group, Inc
GO2 for Lung Cancer
Hearing Loss Association of America
Hepatitis B Foundation
Hope For Hypothalamic Hamartomas
Hydrocephalus Association
Indiana University
International Foundation for CDKL5 Research
International Myeloma Foundation
Johns Hopkins University
KCNT1 Slack Epilepsy Foundation
Kidney Cancer Association
KidneyCAN
Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome (LGS) Foundation
Long COVID Campaign
LUNGeivity Foundation
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Lupus Foundation of America
Lupus Research Alliance

Malecare Cancer Support
Melanoma Research Foundation
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer Coalitions
National Brain Tumor Society
National Fragile X Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Scleroderma Foundation
NF Midwest
NF Network
NF Northeast
NORSE Institute
North American Spinal Cord Injury Consortium
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy
Pediatric Epilepsy Research Consortium
Penn State University
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation
PKD Foundation
Project 8p Foundation
Prostate Cancer Foundation
Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation
Rare Epilepsy Network (REN)
RASopathies Network
Research!America
Sergeant Sullivan Circle
SHEPHERD Foundation
Sjogren's Foundation
STXBP1 Foundation
Susan G. Komen
SynGAP Research Fund
TESS Research Foundation
Texas Neurofibromatosis Foundation
The Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis
The Cute Syndrome Foundation
The Foundation for Peripheral Neuropathy
The LAM Foundation
The LCC Foundation
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
The National Pancreas Foundation
The Prostate Cancer Clinical Trials Consortium
The Quinism Foundation

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons
TSC Alliance
UL Research Institutes
University of North Carolina System
University of Pittsburgh
University of Virginia
Veterans for Common Sense
VHL Alliance
Weill Cornell Medicine
ZERO Prostate Cancer

cc: House and Senate Committees on Appropriations