

**Stomach Cancer Peer-Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) Request:  
FY2026 Defense Appropriations**

*Some offices require letter requests to be submitted using a specific form, which varies by office. These forms typically ask for some or all of the following information. Just do your best—perfection isn't necessary.*

*Be sure to record which offices you are completing forms for on the TRACKING SHEET. If you have any questions, contact Melani Vincelli at [melani.vincelli@gmail.com](mailto:melani.vincelli@gmail.com).*

*Thank you for making a difference!*

**Request type [Program/Language]:** Language (also called “Report Language”; it is NOT a Program FUNDING Request)

**Email:** YOUR email address

**Organization Name:** Debbie’s Dream Foundation (DDF): Curing Stomach Cancer

**DDF Address:**

PO Box 9867  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310-9867  
(954) 475-1200

**Organization contact/Lobbyist:** Megan Gordon Don – [mgdon@mgdstrategies.com](mailto:mgdon@mgdstrategies.com);  
202.246.8095

**Point of Contact:** Name of staff person who sent you the link to the form

**Short Title of Your Request:** Keep stomach cancer in the DoD’s PRCRP for FY26

**Appropriations Subcommittee:** Defense (DoD)

**Priority of this request:** #1

**Short description of our request:** keep stomach cancer as a disease eligible for research funding through the DoD’s PRCRP for FY26

**Goals & Expected Outcomes:** Improved stomach cancer treatment, early detection tools, and prevention methods for our warfighters, veterans, and the American public

**How will this benefit our district:** This year, it is estimated that **XX** people in our state will be diagnosed with stomach cancer and **YY** will die [**get state numbers from the [State Fact Sheet](#)**] Statistically, only 36% of all people diagnosed with stomach cancer in our congressional district die within five-years because there are few tools available to detect, prevent, or treat this disease. Including stomach cancer in the DoD’s PRCRP permits researchers to apply for funding through the program so that we can develop the treatments needed by our patient population.

**Signed by multiple members/Who else are you asking to support this request:**  
Yes/All U.S. Representatives and Senators

**Who would be opposed to this request:** No one

**Agency:** Department of Defense

**Account:** Defense Health Program

**Program/Language Title:** Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP)

**Specific Program Description/Proposed Language:** The funds provided in the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program are directed to be used to conduct research in the following areas: ...stomach cancer...

**Explanation/Rationale:** We request that you support the continued inclusion of stomach cancer as a disease eligible for research funding through the Department of Defense's (DoD's) Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) in the FY2026 Defense appropriations bill. The PRCRP was established in 2009 and supports military relevant research into specifically designated cancers. Stomach cancer was first included in the PRCRP in FY 2015. Military service members are exposed to environments that put them at increased risk of certain cancers, including stomach cancer. A diagnosis of stomach cancer for the service member or for their family members impacts mission-readiness.

The Department of Veterans Affairs considers stomach cancer to be a service connected malignancy for service members who experienced hazardous exposure to ionizing radiation. Additionally, due to past and present deployments, service members and veterans may have an increased risk of stomach cancer, especially if diagnosed with *H. pylori*. Studies suggest the risk of *H. pylori* infection increases among military personnel during long-term deployment. This is significant because, according to the National Cancer Institute, infection with *H. pylori* is the primary identified cause of stomach cancer.

There are few effective treatments for stomach cancer and diagnosis often occurs at late stage. The PRCRP offers an important opportunity to study diseases like stomach cancer that are not well understood, have few treatment options, and for which military service confers a higher risk

**Describe the project or program, what it will do and why it is necessary:**

Congress added stomach cancer as a disease eligible for funding for the first time in FY 2015 and it was maintained as an eligible disease ever since. While the grant funding process is underway for FY 2024, nearly \$44 million has been awarded for stomach cancer research to date. DDF urges the continued inclusion of this devastating disease in this important program. Because this is a congressionally directed program, it is critical that members of Congress continue to show their support for keeping stomach cancer in the program.

**Program Funding:** Support highest possible funding level for FY 2026

**Previous Funding levels for PRCRP:**

FY22: \$130 million (20 cancers, including stomach)

FY23: \$130 million (20 cancers, including stomach)

FY24: \$130 million (18 cancers, including stomach)

FY25: House DoD Report - \$130 million (17 cancers, including stomach); Senate DoD Report - \$130 million (20 cancers, , including stomach)