

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  
LUNgevity 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