

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 20, 2022

The Honorable Jon Tester
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
Dirksen 122
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
Dirksen 122
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Tester and Vice Chairman Shelby:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 appropriations process, we write to respectfully request that you continue supporting valuable medical research conducted by the Department of Defense (DOD) through the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP). The initiatives under the CDMRP are critical to advancing our understanding of a variety of health issues and have a proven track record of contributing to medical breakthroughs. They deserve Congress's continuing support.

The CDMRP plays a unique role in the medical research community, investing in high-risk, high-reward research through a peer review system that also incorporates feedback from patient advocates. The research is both innovative and successful.

Much of the research conducted is particularly relevant to the military community, such as studies of diseases that occur in higher numbers among veterans, and diseases or injuries whose treatments may also be applicable to wounded service members. For example, grants from the CDMRP have been used to support research into:

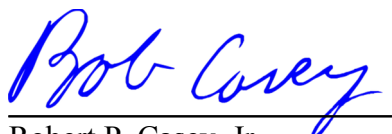
- Neurological diseases such as ALS and multiple sclerosis that have higher rates of incidence among veterans. One such grant funded research into induced pluripotent stem cells derived from human skin to determine if there is the potential for therapeutic benefit of autologous stem-cell transplantation for ALS patients. Another grant developed a new test to measure sensorimotor function changes for patients with multiple sclerosis. This test can identify and track progressive multiple sclerosis to allow for early treatment.
- Early Detection of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). One CDMRP-funded grant was used to identify promising biomarkers that may help with early diagnosis of PTSD and with developing novel treatments.
- Alternatives to opioids. The Peer Reviewed Orthopaedic Research Program developed an FDA-cleared peripheral nerve stimulation device that can serve as an alternative to opioids to reduce post-amputation pain.
- Improvements to medical training. A CDMRP-funded grant went to a project seeking to develop a "machine vision tool" that captures the movements of expert medical personnel and uses them as a comparison with military trainees during exercises. The Investigating Methods for Performance Overdrive (IMPROVE) project is meant to allow for a detailed

assessment of the performance of trainees when they provide care requiring precise hand movements or physical orientations.

- Rare diseases like scleroderma, a disease that affects connective tissue, and tuberous sclerosis complex, a genetic disorder that causes tumors to grow in many parts of the body. The research into scleroderma is conducted to understand how our skin works and may help to develop methods of skin regeneration that could also be used for burn victims. The research into tuberous sclerosis complex has improved our understanding of other conditions and injuries, such as traumatic brain injury and diabetes.
- Different cancers. The Peer-Reviewed Cancer Research Program, a subset of the CDMRP, focuses on cancers that occur more frequently in service members and veterans, such as melanoma. Other programs within the CDMRP focus on kidney cancer, ovarian cancer, breast cancer and prostate cancer.
- Autism. A child with an autism spectrum disorder needs specialized care that may not be available to military families everywhere they are stationed; one grant supported research into remote treatment through web-based technology, such as webcams. Another grant supported the development of technology that, when paired with smart glasses, can be used to improve social-emotional skills for young adults transitioning to employment.

Members of Congress have traditionally supported a wide variety of programs within the CDMRP, each with its own merits. While we all recognize the challenges facing your Committee in this difficult budget climate, we urge you to continue your support for the programs within the CDMRP.

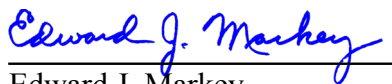
Sincerely,



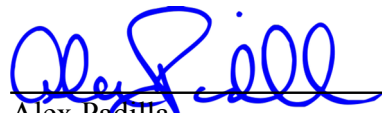
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United States Senator



Raphael G. Warnock
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



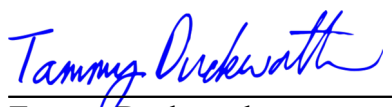
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



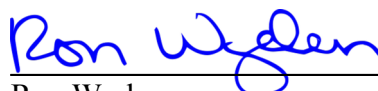
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



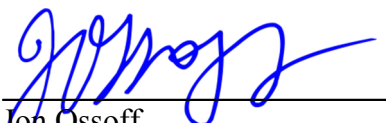
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



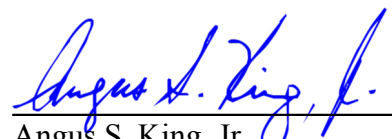
Tina Smith
United States Senator



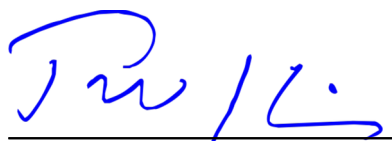
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United States Senator




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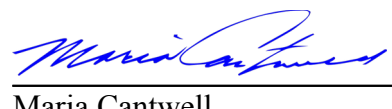
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Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Jack Reed
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Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



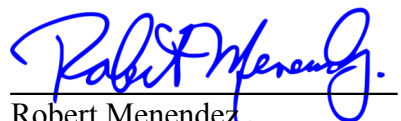
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Mark Kelly
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Gary C. Peters
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Robert Menendez
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Margaret Wood Hassan
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Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
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Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



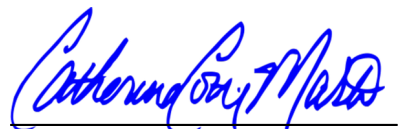
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United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



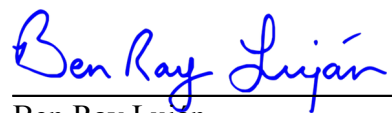
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Catherine Cortez Masto
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Mark R. Warner
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