

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 28, 2019

The Honorable Peter Visclosky  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Visclosky, Chairwoman DeLauro, and Ranking Members Calvert and Cole:

As you balance competing priorities and craft your respective Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 appropriations bills, we write to thank you for your enduring support of medical research funding, and respectfully request your continued support for lung cancer initiatives, including the critical and highly successful defense health research programs funded through the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP). Specifically, we urge you to provide sufficient funding in the FY 2020 Defense Appropriations bill for the Lung Cancer Research Program. LCRP has been funded below its original \$20M allocation since FY 2009, thereby limiting research grants at a time of great need. We also urge you to include important language in the L-HHS Appropriations bill to address the disparate impact of lung cancer on women, particularly younger women who have never smoked.

The Lung Cancer Research Program (LCRP)

As you may know, lung cancer is the leading cause of death among men and women in every state and nationwide with a 5-year survival rate at only 18% despite advancements in current lung cancer treatments. In 2019, an estimated 228,150 new cases of lung cancer is expected and an estimated 142,670 lives will be lost to lung cancer. Numerous studies over the years published by the Institute of Medicine, Cancer, Military Medicine, Chest and others have shown that lung cancer incidence and mortality rates, due to much higher smoking rates and exposures to known carcinogens during active duty are an estimated 25%-30% higher in the military than in civilian populations.

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With a vision to eradicate deaths from lung cancer or better the health and welfare of the military and the American public, the highly innovative research portfolio supported by CDMRP includes a Lung Cancer Research Program (LCRP). The program supports and integrates research from multiple disciplines for risk assessment, prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment for the control and cure of lung cancer. This highly innovative research portfolio is not sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), or any other federal agencies. First established in FY 2009, LCRP adapts its investment strategy annually, focusing its support on underfunded and underrepresented areas. To date, lung cancer research remains severely underfunded and underrepresented relative to the high rates of lung cancer prevalence, morbidity, and mortality.

While we recognize this is a challenging fiscal environment, we ask that you consider ensuring lung cancer research remain an urgent priority within CDMRP as the disease continues to uniquely and significantly affect military population at rates higher than civilians.

## Language Request: The Women and Lung Cancer Research and Preventive Service Act

Research demonstrates a disparate impact of lung cancer on women, in particular, younger women who have never smoked. This latter group is seeing a spike in lung cancer diagnoses while virtually every other group's incidence is falling. Additional research strategies are needed to explore the differences in women with respect to lung cancer risk factors, incidence, and histology. A response to treatments and necessary implementation of lung cancer preventive services for women should be accelerated.


To this end, we respectfully request the inclusion of language in the L-HHS Appropriations bill for FY 2020 to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to conduct an inter-agency study to evaluate the status of, and make recommendations for, increased:

- Research on women and lung cancer
- Access to lung cancer preventive services
- Strategic public awareness and education campaigns on lung cancer

Again, we thank you for your continued support for lung cancer research within your respective subcommittees. Should you have any questions, please contact Kim Soffen in the Office of Congressman Boyle at 5-6111 or [Kimberly.Soffen@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Soffen@mail.house.gov), or Katie Heffernan in the Office of Congressman Rutherford at 5-2501 or [Katie.Heffernan@mail.house.gov](mailto:Katie.Heffernan@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

  
BRENDA F. BOYLE  
Member of Congress

  
JOHN RUTHERFORD  
Member of Congress



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Washington, DC 20515



JULIA BROWNLEY  
Member of Congress



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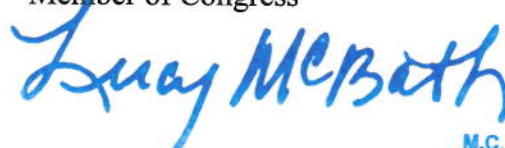
  
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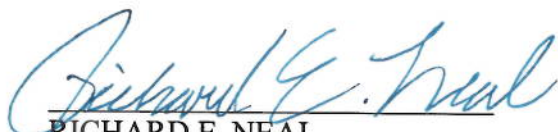
  
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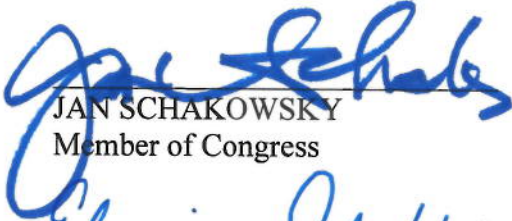
  
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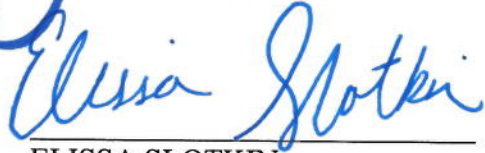
  
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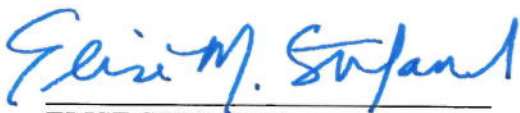
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Member of Congress



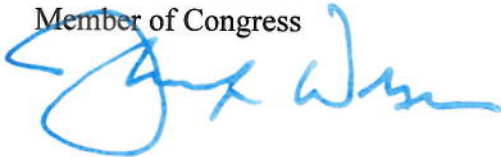
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Member of Congress



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ELISE STEFANIK  
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JENNIFER WEXTON  
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JOHN YARMUTH  
Member of Congress



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BRAD SCHNEIDER  
Member of Congress



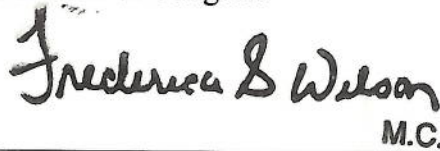
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ABIGAIL D. SPANBERGER  
Member of Congress



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STEVE STIVERS  
Member of Congress



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FREDERICA S. WILSON  
Member of Congress

M.C.



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STEVE COHEN  
Member of Congress