December 2, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson The Honorable Charles Schumer

Speaker of the House Majority Leader, U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20515 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries The Honorable Mitch McConnell

Minority Leader Minority Leader

U.S. House of Representatives U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20515 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