

October 25, 2017

The Honorable John McCain  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Armed Services  
Russell Senate Building, Room 228  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry  
Chairman  
House Committee on Armed Services  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Armed Services  
Russell Senate Building, Room 228  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Armed Services  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen McCain and Thornberry and Ranking Members Reed and Smith:

The undersigned organizations join with the 180 U.S. Representatives and 54 U.S. Senators who recently wrote to you requesting the removal of language included in the Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would have a detrimental impact on research at the Congressionally-Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) at the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD).

Specifically, Sections 733, 891, 892, and 893 of the FY2018 NDAA, as approved by the Senate, would individually and collectively have the effect of restricting, if not outright prohibiting, CDMRP research on diseases and disorders that affect our nation's men and women who serve or have served in the U.S. Armed Services. These provisions would restrict the types of research that could be funded, and add burdensome contracting and auditing requirements designed for large weapons system contracts. Moreover, one of these provisions (Section 733) affects all medical research at DoD, not just the CDMRP.

These provisions will collectively have a significant impact on military readiness, as attested to by the Department of Defense. In a recent memorandum, the U.S. Army's Medical Research and Materiel Command stated that:

*"This language will impact force readiness and medical providers' readiness.... Impacts on military medical training programs will negatively affect the readiness of our military health care providers."*

We specifically ask that Sections 733, 891, 892, and 893 of the FY2018 Senate NDAA be excluded from any final FY2018 NDAA conference report and/or legislation. It is important to note that not one of these provisions was included as part of the House-passed FY2018 NDAA. Furthermore, an amendment that would have nullified these provisions was denied a vote on the Senate floor, despite being cosponsored by a majority of the U.S. Senate.

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We urge you to listen to the concerns of your Republican and Democratic colleagues in the House and Senate, who have been hearing from constituents across the country about the dangers that these provision pose to the continued investment in these programs. The strong level of bipartisan Congressional support for the defense health research programs is a beacon of hope to both military and non-military families who must cope with these diseases and disorders. Please honor their concerns by ensuring that these four sections are not included in the final NDAA conference agreement.

We appreciate your prompt and urgent consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

AcademyHealth  
Action to Cure Kidney Cancer  
Adult Congenital Heart Association  
ALS Association  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Association for Cancer Research  
American Association of Cancer Institutes  
American Brain Tumor Association  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Liver Foundation  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Thoracic Society  
American Urological Association  
Aplastic Anemia and MDS International Foundation  
Arthritis Foundation  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
Autism Speaks  
Beyond Celiac  
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network  
Case Western Reserve University  
Children's National Health System  
Children's Heart Foundation  
Children's Tumor Foundation  
Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation

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Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy  
Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR)  
Critical Mass: The Young Adult Cancer Alliance  
CureHHT  
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer  
debra of America  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered  
Foundation to Eradicate Duchenne  
GBS|CIDP Foundation International  
Global Health Technologies Coalition  
HIV Medicine Association  
Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah  
Hydrocephalus Association  
Indiana University  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders  
International Myeloma Foundation  
Interstitial Cystitis Association  
Johns Hopkins University  
Kidney Cancer Action Network  
Kidney Cancer Association  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Littlest Tumor Foundation  
Lung Cancer Alliance  
LUNGevity  
Lupus Foundation of America  
Lupus Research Alliance  
Lymphoma Research Foundation  
Malaria No More  
Malecare  
Marfan Foundation  
Melanoma Research Foundation  
METAvivor Research and Support  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

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Muscular Dystrophy Association  
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer Coalitions  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners  
    in Women's Health  
National Brain Tumor Society  
National Fragile X Foundation  
National Kidney Foundation  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
NephCure Kidney International  
Neurofibromatosis Midwest  
Neurofibromatosis Network  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy  
Penn State University  
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation  
Princeton University  
Prostate Cancer Clinical Trials Consortium  
Prostate Cancer Foundation  
Prostate Health Education Network  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Research!America  
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation  
Scleroderma Foundation  
Sergeant Sullivan Circle  
Sleep Research Society  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
Susan G. Komen  
Texas Neurofibromatosis Foundation  
Theresa's Research Foundation  
Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance  
University of Central Florida  
University of Iowa  
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center  
University of Pittsburgh  
U.S. Hereditary Angioedema Association  
Us TOO Prostate Cancer Education & Support  
Vanderbilt University  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

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Veterans for Common Sense  
The Veterans Health Council  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
Wayne State University  
Weill Cornell Medicine  
ZERO-The End of Prostate Cancer

Enclosures:

- 1) House Letter to Chairs and Ranking Members, House and Senate Armed Services Committees, October 24, 2017
- 2) Senate Letter to Chairs and Ranking Members, House and Senate Armed Services Committees, October 10, 2017

cc: House and Senate Conferees to the fiscal year 2018, National Defense Authorization Act