March 28, 2019

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies
HT-2 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Carter
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies
HVC-227, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz and Ranking Member Carter:

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the health and well-being of
our nation’s veterans. Congress has long understood the relationship between robust research
into the health care needs of our veterans and improved outcomes in treatment and care. For this
reason, we respectfully request a funding level of $834 million for the Department of Veterans’
Affairs (VA) Medical and Prosthetic Research program within the Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2020.

The VA Research and Development (R&D) program plays a key role in advancing
the health and care of Veterans and is uniquely positioned to continue to lead a national
transformation of American health care. As part of the largest integrated health care system in
the United States, the VA is in prime position to study the causes and most effective treatments
of the conditions that most commonly afflict our service members and veterans.

Currently, VA researchers are studying treatments for some of the most devastating
mental and physical health issues affecting veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan,
including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), traumatic
amputation, sensory dysfunction and loss, polytrauma, and suicide. The VA is assessing the
impact of military sexual trauma (MST) on both men and women veterans, researching
substance-use disorders, and measuring the impact of the ongoing Program of Comprehensive
Assistance for VA Family Caregivers on the health of both veterans and their caregivers. VA’s
research also focuses on continuing care across a veteran’s entire life span, studying causes and
treatments of various cancers, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
(ALS), chronic pain, and Gulf War illnesses.

Let’s work together to support VA researchers and foster a health care system for our
nation’s veterans that is as innovative and effective as they are. We urge you to provide a
meaningful investment of $834 million for the VA’s Medical and Prosthetic Research Program
for the coming fiscal year.

Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership on behalf of our veterans.

Sincerely,

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Jennifer González-Colón
Member of Congress
Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

David Scott  
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress
Jim Himes
Member of Congress

Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Tim Burchett
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
Member of Congress

Conor Lamb
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

Susie Lee
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia
Member of Congress

Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse
Member of Congress
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress