

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 2, 2025

Hon. John Carter
Chairman
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz:

Thank you for your continued commitment to ensuring the health and well-being of our nation's veterans by prioritizing the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical and Prosthetic Research program. Congress has long understood the relationship between robust research for the health care needs of our veterans and improved outcomes in treatment and care. For this reason, we respectfully request a **funding level of \$1.2 billion for the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research program** within the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2026.

The VA Office of Research and Development and its dedicated staff play 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, VA Research and Development has the access needed to study the causes and most effective treatments of conditions commonly afflicting our servicemembers and veterans. Sustained and predictable funding for VA's Medical and Prosthetic Research program saves veterans' lives. Delays and lack of robust funding disrupts research projects that are vital to veterans' health, including studies on cancer treatments, opioid addiction, prosthetics, suicide prevention, and toxic exposures.

VA research seeks to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of our nation's veterans and endeavors to extend their life expectancy. Achieving a remarkable milestone, in November 2023, the VA enrolled its one millionth veteran into the precision medicine-focused Million Veteran Program (MVP), which looks at how genes, lifestyle, military experiences, and exposures affect health and wellness in veterans. Additionally, in 2024, VA research projects included studies addressing military environmental exposures; suicide prevention and created a clinical trial database to be used for future systematic reviews or clinical practice guidelines; improving lung cancer screening by completing more than 680,000 screenings for over 350,000 veterans since 2021; a neuro-prosthetic system to provide sensory feedback from a prosthetic hand; and continuing research on pain and opioid use, creating an injectable gel that shows potential treatment for degenerative disc disease.

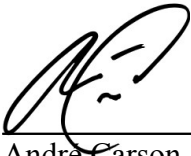
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VA Research and Development also funded clinical trials for experimental treatments for bone regeneration and spinal cord injuries as well as precision medicine for several cancer types. Prosthetic research studies included those that sought to improve lower limbs, foot, and ankle prosthetics and to better understand the unique challenges faced by women using prosthetics. These novel treatments and diagnostics do not just benefit our country's veterans, they benefit all Americans who suffer from complex disease processes.

It is imperative that Congress demonstrates a continued commitment to VA research and encourages 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 \$1.2 billion 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 American veterans.

Sincerely,



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress

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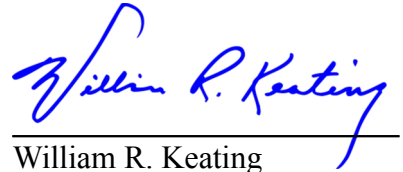
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



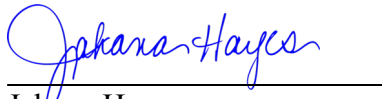
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



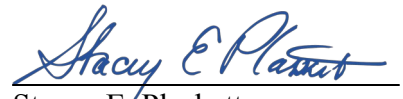
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



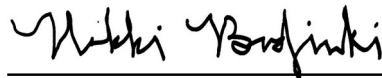
William R. Keating
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Jahana Hayes
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Stacey E. Plaskett
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Nikki Budzinski
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Josh Gottheimer
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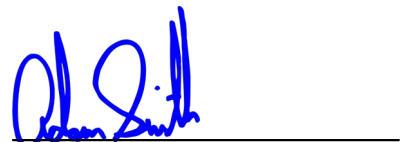
Marilyn Strickland
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Angie Craig
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Vicente Gonzalez
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Adam Smith
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Mark DeSaulnier
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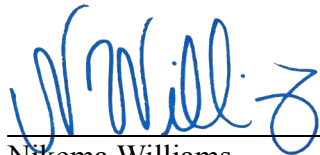
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



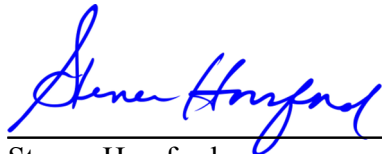
Stephen F. Lynch
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Brendan F. Boyle
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Yvette D. Clarke
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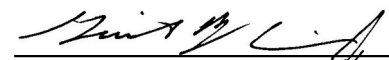
David Scott
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Mike Thompson
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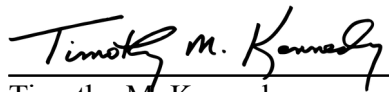


Jason Crow
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Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
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Timothy M. Kennedy
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Ro Khanna
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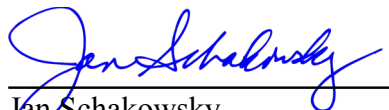
Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



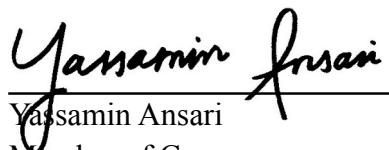
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



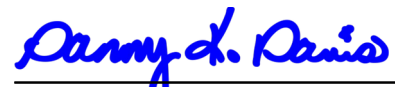
Jan Schakowsky
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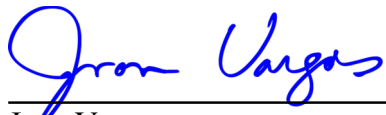


Ted W. Lieu
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Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress

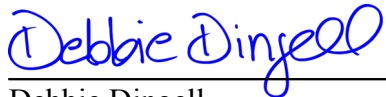
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Juan Vargas
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Chris Pappas
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Debbie Dingell
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Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



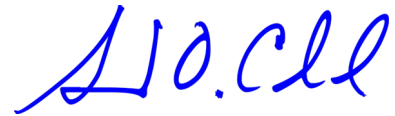
Morgan McGarvey
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Nellie Pou
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Gwen S. Moore
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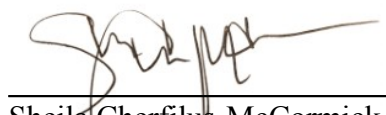
Salud Carbajal
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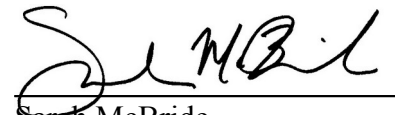
Valerie P. Foushee
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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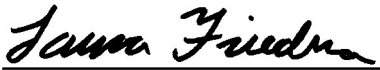


Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
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Sarah McBride
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Laura Friedman
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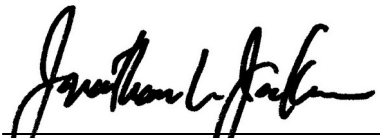
Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



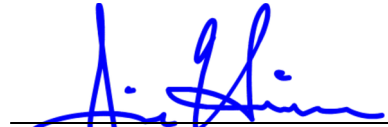
Kelly Morrison
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



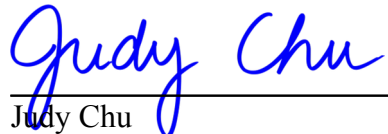
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



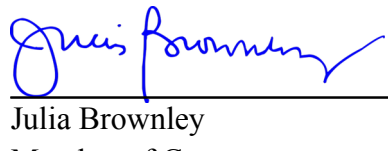
Joaquin Castro
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Judy Chu
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George Whitesides
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Julia Brownley
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Chrissy Houlahan
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Patrick Ryan
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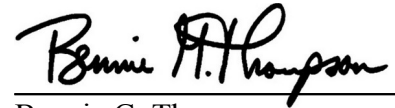
Jimmy Panetta
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Ami Bera
Member of Congress



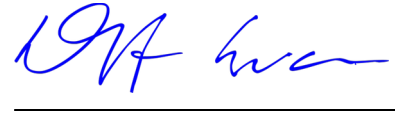
MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



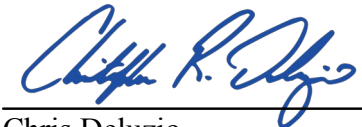
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



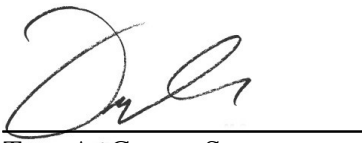
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



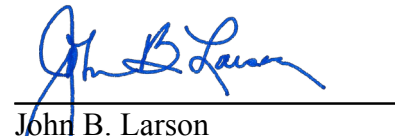
Chris Deluzio
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Darren Soto
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Troy A. Carter, Sr.
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John B. Larson
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Jared Moskowitz
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Gerald E. Connolly
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Gabe Amo
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