

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 31, 2023

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. 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 \$980 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 2024.

The VA Office of Research and Development 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, VA Research and Development has the access needed to study the causes and most effective treatments of conditions commonly afflicting our servicemembers and veterans.

VA research seeks to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of our nation's veterans and endeavors to extend their life expectancy. In FY 2022, VA research projects included studies into: PTSD in combat veterans; the impacts of VA Specialty Care coordination on improved patient health; improving outcomes for veterans with Chronic Kidney Disease and heart failure; and the interaction of stress and mild traumatic brain injuries. 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 however, they benefit all Americans who suffer from complex disease processes.

The President's Budget request for VA research this year is \$938 million. This request does not fully account for biomedical research and development price inflation and would limit research potential at the same time our country—and veterans in particular—is struggling with

burgeoning rates of mental health disease. Furthermore, additional funding for the VA research program is critical to support recruitment and retention of researchers as the VA increases research efforts related to toxic exposures and mental health following new authorities enacted in the 117th Congress. Increasing the President's funding request by \$42 million would ensure that the VA can maintain cutting-edge research programs that benefit not just America's veterans, but all people who suffer from complex diseases.

It is imperative that Congress demonstrates a clear 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 \$980 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 American veterans.

Sincerely,



Jenniffer González-Colón
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho
Sablan
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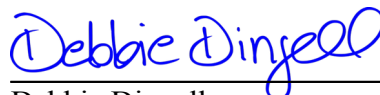
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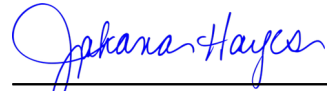
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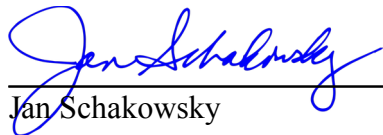
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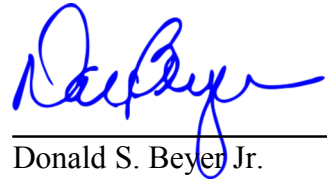
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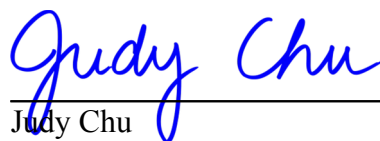
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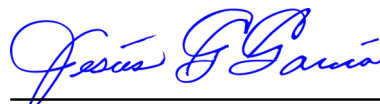
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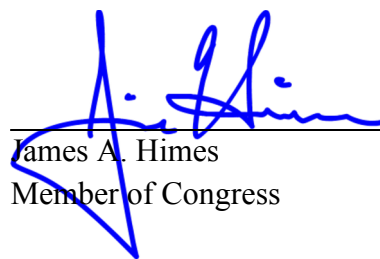
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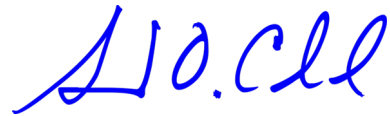
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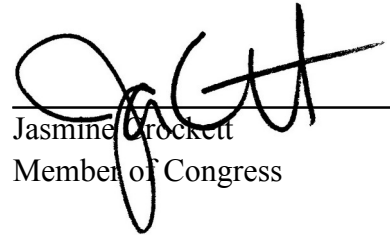
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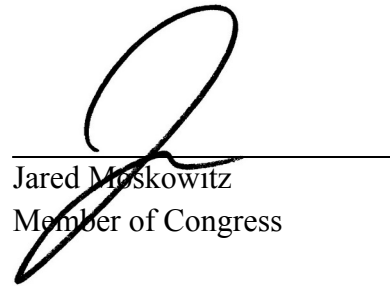
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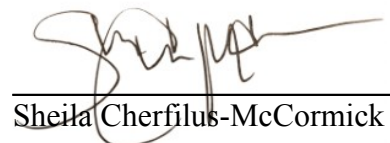
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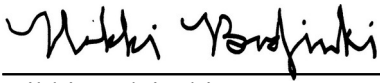
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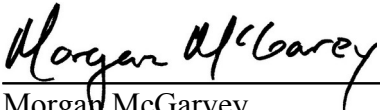
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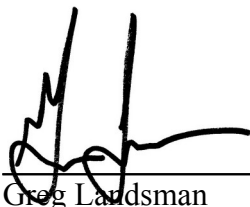
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Abigail Davis Spanberger
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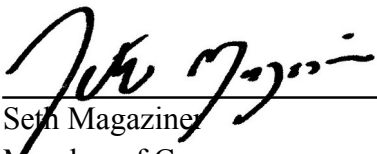
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