

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 29, 2023

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairmen
Subcommittee on Defense
House Committee on Appropriations
H-405 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
House Committee on Appropriations
H-405 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum,

We are writing to respectfully request \$35 million for the peer-reviewed orthopedic research program (PRORP) in the FY 2024 Defense Appropriations legislation. Peer-reviewed orthopedic research has been funded through PRORP since FY 2009 and before that the Orthopedic Extremity Trauma Research Program (OETRP) from FY 2006 – FY 2009.

PRORP is one of the most successful Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRPs) housed under the Department of Defense (DOD). It is a competitive grant program that funds focused basic and clinical research pertaining to extremity war injuries through direct grants to research institutions. More than 15,000 patients have been enrolled in studies funded by this program to date. Results will lead to major improvements in surgeons' abilities to care for these devastating injuries.

The program received an initial \$114 million investment in FY 2009, with funding stable at \$30 million since FY 2012. The initial higher investment levels allowed for development of a consortium of centers engaged in this research and a methods center to ensure that rigorous scientific design and study principles have been employed throughout. We are requesting an increase to \$35 million in order to maintain stable funding for the consortium infrastructure and to ensure that studies have the greatest chance of achieving success.

Over half of all combat injuries sustained during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) involved extremity injuries and orthopedic-specific conditions secondary to battle injury. In addition, extremity injuries accounted for the greatest proportion of medical resource utilization and caused the greatest number of disabled military personnel, accounting for 65% of total inpatient resource spending and 64% of projected disability costs.

We are hopeful that the Subcommittee will provide \$35 million in the FY 2024 Defense Appropriations legislation to ensure this important work can continue to assist those who have made tremendous sacrifices while defending the United States of America.

Sincerely,



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



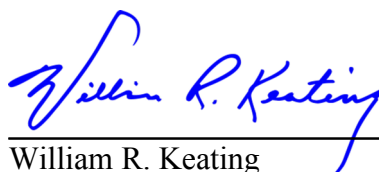
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho
Sablan
Member of Congress



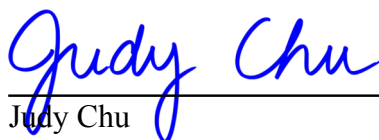
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



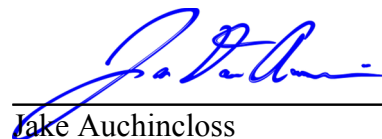
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



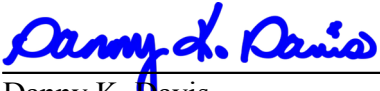
Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



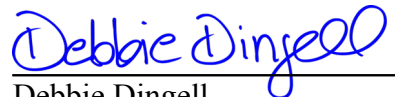
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
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Brian Fitzpatrick
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John Joyce, M.D.
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Paul Tonko
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Julia Brownley
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Josh Gottheimer
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Dean Phillips
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Mike Gallagher
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Eric Swalwell
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Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



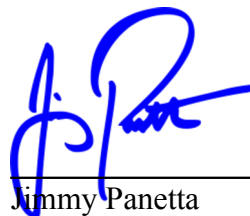
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



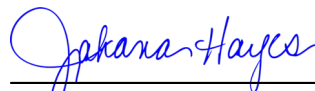
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



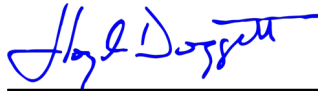
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



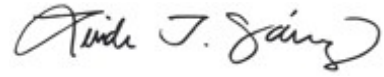
Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress




Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



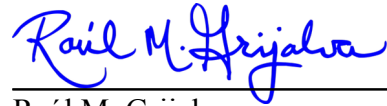
Juan Vargas
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Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



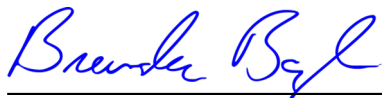
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



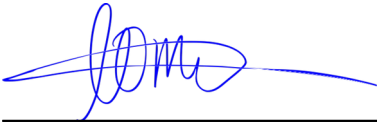
Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



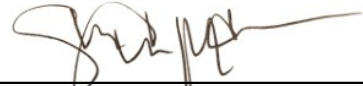
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



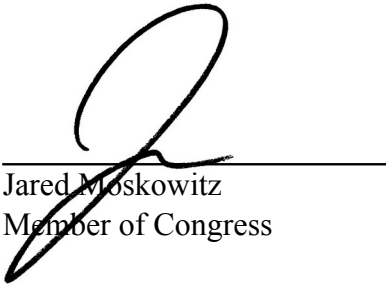
Nick LaLota
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



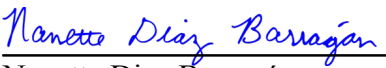
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Jeff Jackson
Member of Congress