

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2014

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Chairman,
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky:

As your subcommittee begins work on the Fiscal Year 2015 Defense Appropriations legislation, we respectfully request the inclusion of \$30 million for peer-reviewed orthopaedic research.

Peer-reviewed orthopaedic research has been authorized in the past and has received funding in previous Defense Appropriations legislation as well as supplemental appropriations through two programs: first through the Orthopaedic Extremity Trauma Research Program (OETRP), and recently through the Peer-Reviewed Orthopaedic Research Program (PRORP). These programs have become critical to the treatment of our wounded servicemen and woman returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, and a sustainment in program funding is essential to fulfilling the debt of gratitude we owe to those who protect our freedom. This program (PRORP) is peer reviewed and awarded through a competitive grant program to ensure the most efficient use of resources.

A U.S. Army analysis of soldiers injured in Iraq and Afghanistan shows that extremity injuries account for the greatest proportion of medical resource utilization and cause the greatest number of disabled soldiers, with about 82 percent of the injuries in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom involve the extremities. Soldiers with extremity injuries had the longest average inpatient stays and accounted for 65 percent of total inpatient resource utilization and 64 percent of projected disability benefits costs in the future. The projected disability cost for extremity injuries sustained in this conflict to date, exclusive of any short or long-term medical costs, is approximately \$1.2 billion.

The need for this research has never been greater and more immediate. We hope that the subcommittee will provide \$30 million in the FY 2015 Defense Appropriations legislation to ensure this important work can continue to assist those who have made tremendous sacrifices while defending our nation.

Sincerely,



RON BARBER
Member of Congress



DUNCAN HUNTER
Member of Congress



C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
Member of Congress



CHRIS GIBSON
Member of Congress



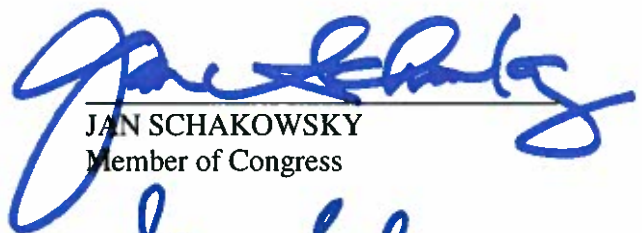
CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress



ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Member of Congress



SUSAN DAVIS
Member of Congress



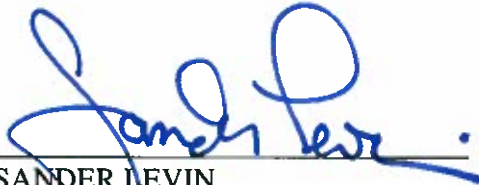
JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



BOBBY L. RUSH
Member of Congress



STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress



SANDER LEVIN
Member of Congress



JIM McDERMOTT
Member of Congress



GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress



HANK JOHNSON
Member of Congress



STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress



TIM WALZ
Member of Congress



COLLEEN HANABUSA
Member of Congress



JUDY CHU
Member of Congress



ANN KIRKPATRICK
Member of Congress



RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



DAVID CICILLINE
Member of Congress




CAROL SHEA-PORTER
Member of Congress



JOAQUIN CASTRO
Member of Congress



FILEMON VELA
Member of Congress



TAMMY DUCKWORTH
Member of Congress



FREDERICA S. WILSON
Member of Congress



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Member of Congress



WILLIAM L. ENYART
Member of Congress



DEREK KILMER
Member of Congress



JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pete P. Gallego". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

PETE P. GALLEGO
Member of Congress