

DEFENSE MEDICAL RESEARCH FUNDING CUTS

The American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) was extremely disappointed that funding for the Department of Defense's Peer Reviewed Orthopaedic Research Program was eliminated in Fiscal Year 2025.

Due to the hard work of orthopaedic surgeons, **PRORP funding was restored to \$20 million in the FY26 DOD appropriations bill that became law in February. PRORP directly improves the care of active duty servicemembers, veterans and civilians**, enrolling more than 15,000 patients in studies to date. It is a competitive grant program that funds basic and clinical research pertaining to orthopaedic combat injuries through direct grants to research institutions.

Over half of all combat injuries sustained during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) involved extremity injuries and orthopaedic-specific conditions secondary to battle injury; and 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**. PRORP research has led to major improvements in surgeons' ability to address devastating battlefield and fitness-related injuries, including in the areas of drug and device development and clinical care practices.

The research also translates to the civilian population, where **musculoskeletal diseases account for more than half of all disabling conditions reported by adults**. Research funded through PRORP has led to changes in the standard of care for prevention of post-operative infection and new non-opioid options to treat pain. **AAOS and orthopaedic surgeons continue to advocate for funding to be restored to \$30 million, equal to that provided by the federal government in FY 2024.**

WHAT AAOS MEMBERS CAN DO



Share your story: How has federally funded research impacted orthopaedics or how you personally practice?

ACT NOW

