

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chair  
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 Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum,

We are writing to respectfully request \$30 million for the Peer-Reviewed Orthopedic Research Program (PRORP) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Defense Appropriations legislation. Peer-reviewed orthopedic research has been funded through PRORP since FY 2009; before that, the Orthopaedic Extremity Trauma Research Program (OETRP) was funded from FY 2006–FY 2009.

PRORP is one of the most successful Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRPs) housed under the Department of Defense. It is a competitive grant program that funds focused basic and clinical research pertaining to extremity war injuries through direct grants to research institutions. Results will lead, and have already led, to major improvements in surgeons' ability to address these devastating injuries and care for the people impacted.

PRORP received an initial \$114 million investment in FY 2009, with funding maintained at \$30 million annually since FY 2012. However, the FY 2025 Continuing Resolution included a 57 percent cut to the overall CDMRP budget, reducing funding from \$1.509 billion to \$650 million. Unfortunately, PRORP was among several critical research initiatives that received no funding for FY 2025 as a result. We are very appreciative that funding for PRORP was restored to \$20 million in FY2026, but believe it is vitally important that PRORP funding return to \$30 million for FY2027.

The \$114 million Congress invested in PRORP in FY 2009 allowed for the development of a consortium of centers engaged in this research and the establishment of a methods center to ensure that rigorous scientific design and study principles are employed throughout the program. This infrastructure is now at risk due to the recent funding decreases.

Since its creation, PRORP has supported 355 high-impact and clinically relevant research awards that have advanced treatment and rehabilitation for service members, veterans, and civilians with orthopedic injuries. More than 15,000 Americans have been enrolled in studies funded by this program.

The result has been numerous innovations in prosthetics, including low-cost customizable prosthetic feet and improved socket systems for amputees. Other notable outcomes include:

- The SPRINT PNS System, now in clinical use as an opioid alternative for pain treatment;
- Clinical evidence supporting targeted muscle reinnervation for the treatment of nerve pain in amputees;
- A clinical trial that changed the standard of care for treatment of orthopedic infection using topical vancomycin;
- Development and validation of the NU-FlexSIV socket for unilateral transfemoral amputees; and
- Research that changed our understanding of osteoarthritis mechanisms.

Still, there is much work to be done.

Over half of all combat injuries sustained during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom 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 percent of total inpatient resource spending and 64 percent of projected disability costs.

We encourage the Subcommittee to restore funding for PRORP at the historical \$30 million level in the FY 2027 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,



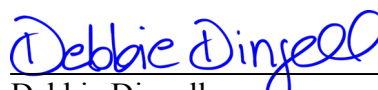
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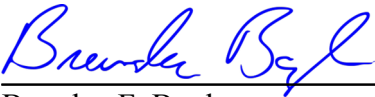


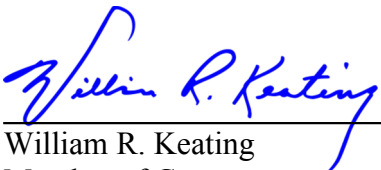
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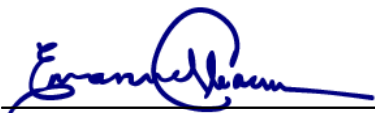
  
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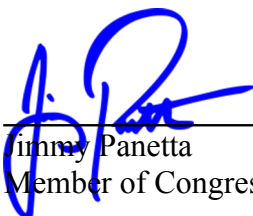
  
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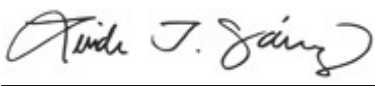
  
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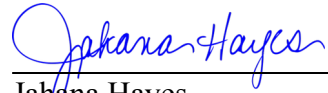
  
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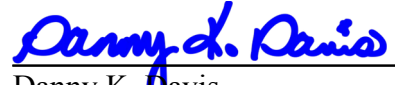
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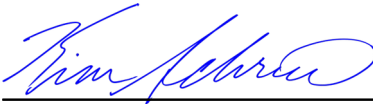
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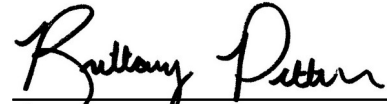
Stephen F. Lynch  
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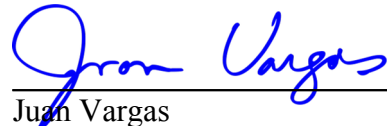
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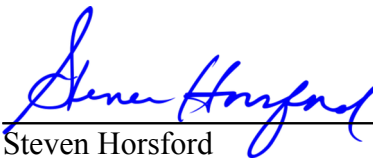
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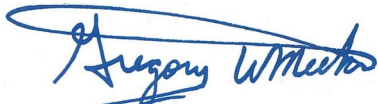
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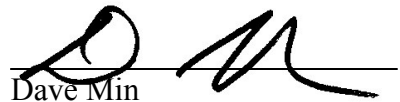
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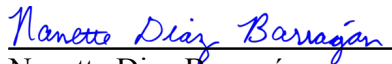
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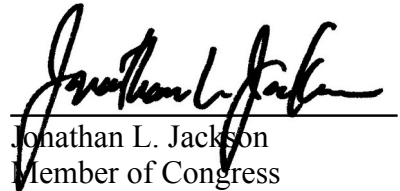
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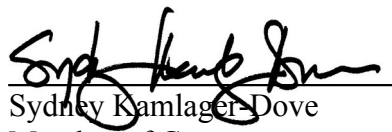
Dave Min  
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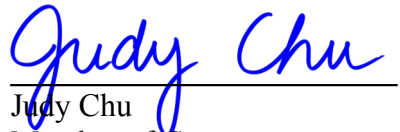
Nanette Diaz Barragán  
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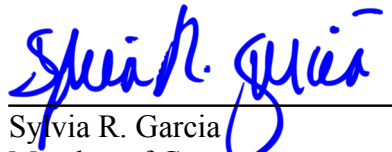
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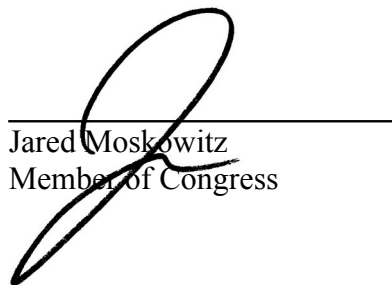
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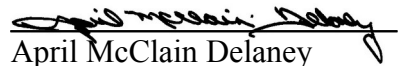
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Jared Moskowitz  
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*Ted W. Lieu*

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