March 29, 2023

The Honorable Ken Calvert  The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chairmen Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense Subcommittee on Defense
House Committee on Appropriations House Committee on Appropriations
H-405 Capitol Building H-405 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515 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
Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress

Mike Gallagher  
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress

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
Member of Congress

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