April 1, 2019

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  

Dear Chairman Visclosky and Ranking Member Calvert,

As you begin deliberations on the Fiscal Year 2020 Defense appropriations bill, we write to request your support for $10 million in funding for the creation of a Pancreatic Cancer Research Program at the Department of Defense (DoD).

Pancreatic cancer is the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the U.S. While survival rates for many other cancers have improved, the pancreatic cancer five-year survival rate remains at nine percent. In fact, pancreatic cancer is the only major cancer in the United States with a survival rate consistently in the single digits and it is projected to become the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths around 2020.

In previous years because of your leadership, Congress has provided funding for pancreatic cancer research through the DoD’s Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP). Research shows that within a cohort of U.S. veterans, there is direct evidence for increased risk of death from pancreatic cancer which could be related to environmental exposures, associations with prior medical conditions or lifestyle — all risk factors for pancreatic cancer. Previous funding through the PRCRP has provided a small amount of funding for innovative and competitive pancreatic cancer research, but with the five-year survival rate remaining at nine percent, there is an urgent need to change the outcomes for this deadly cancer.

It’s imperative for Congress to make new investments in pancreatic cancer research. We therefore encourage you to fund research through a dedicated Pancreatic Cancer Research Program in the Fiscal Year 2020 Defense appropriations bill.

With your leadership and support, we can ensure that adequate resources are available to make pancreatic cancer research, early detection, and the well-being of pancreatic cancer patients a national priority.

Sincerely,
Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

Pete Stauber
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

Don Young
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress
Bobby L. Rush  
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Christopher H. Smith  
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Stephen F. Lynch  
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Diana DeGette  
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Bill Foster  
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Jackie Speier  
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Collin C. Peterson  
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Tony Cárdenas  
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Ruben Gallego  
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Ron Kind  
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John Yarmuth  
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Pramila Jayapal  
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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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Linda T. Sánchez  
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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan  
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Julia Brownley  
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Kurt Schrader  
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David Scott  
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Albio Sires  
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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
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Doris Matsui  
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Debbie Dingell  
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Steven Horsford  
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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
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Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.  
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Angie Craig
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Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress

Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
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Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

Conor Lamb
Member of Congress

Sharice Davids
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

Carol Miller
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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D  
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Jim Himes  
Member of Congress

Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress