#### Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

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,

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Lance Gooden

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