

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 11, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chair
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Durbin,

As you begin deliberations on the Fiscal Year 2020 Defense appropriations bill, we write to request your support 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. 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 is projected to become the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths around 2020.

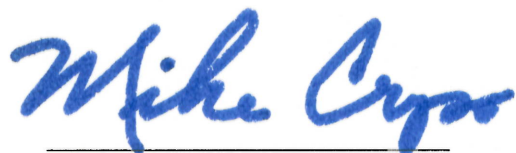
Through your leadership in previous years, Congress has provided funding for pancreatic cancer research through the DoD's Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP). This funding has provided a small amount of support for innovative and competitive pancreatic cancer research, but there remains an urgent need to make investments that will change the outcomes for this deadly cancer. This is especially relevant to U.S. veterans, many of whom are at an increased risk of death from pancreatic cancer. Veterans often have known risk factors for pancreatic cancer, including environmental exposure, other medical conditions, like diabetes, and other lifestyle factors.


It is imperative that Congress 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. Increased federal funding through a dedicated research program will provide greater opportunities to advance treatment options and improve outcomes for pancreatic cancer patients.


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. Please contact Anna Esten at anna_esten@whitehouse.senate.gov with any questions.

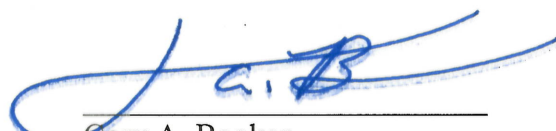
Sincerely,



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator


Mike Crapo
United States Senator

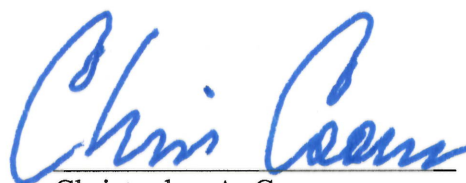

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

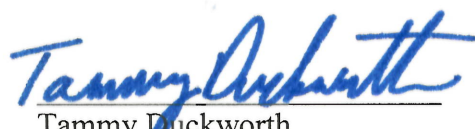

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

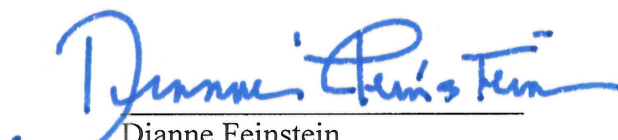

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator


Sherrod Brown
United States Senator


Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

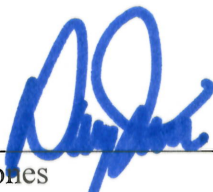
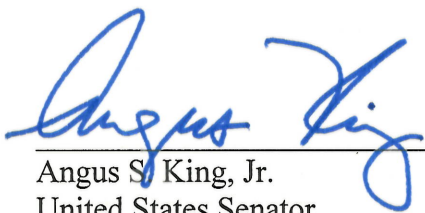
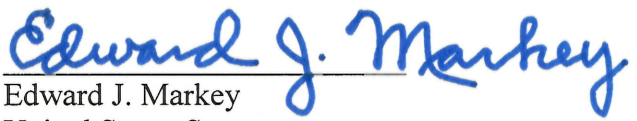
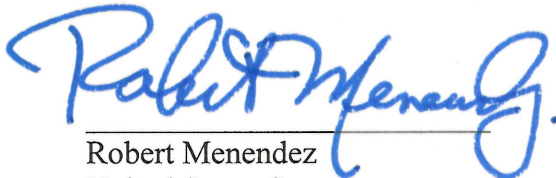
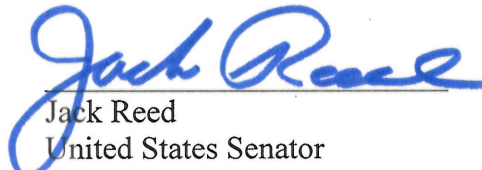
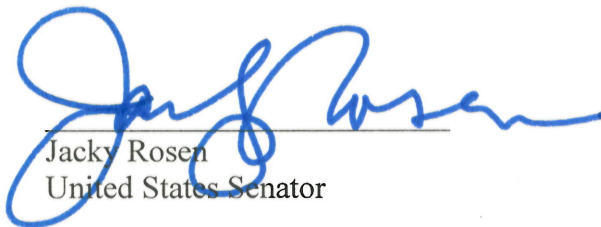
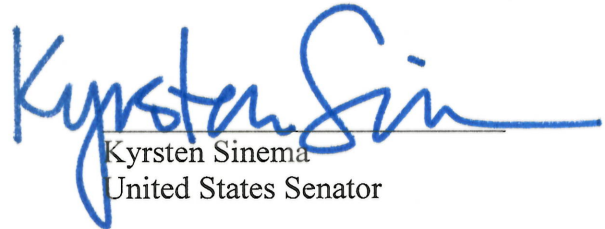
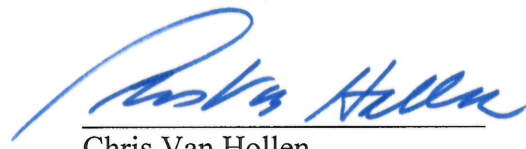
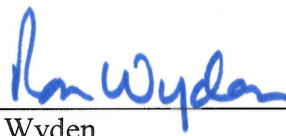
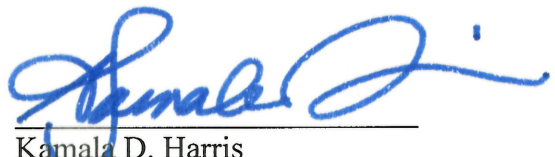

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

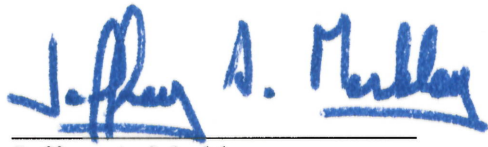

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator


Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator


Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator


Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator


Doug Jones
United States Senator
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator
Joe Manchin III
United States Senator
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator
Robert Menendez
United States Senator
Jack Reed
United States Senator
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator
Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator
Ron Wyden
United States Senator
Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jeffrey A. Merkley". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Jeffrey" and last name "Merkley" being more prominent than the middle initial "A.". The signature is written in a cursive-like style.

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator