

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 12, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
S-128 Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
S-146A Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Durbin:

This year, over 164,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, and it is estimated that more than 29,000 men will die from this disease. As you consider the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Defense Appropriations Act, we respectfully request that the Committee appropriate robust funding to the Department of Defense's (DOD's) Prostate Cancer Research Program (PCRP).

Since 1996, the Committee has been instrumental in advancing prostate cancer research by funding the DOD's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) for prostate cancer. The DOD has a long history of performing medical research studies. Its administrative structure has demonstrated an ability to be flexible and quickly adjust responses to changing medical research needs and priorities. The PCRP is the gold standard in prostate cancer research and an integral weapon in the national fight against prostate cancer.

The PCRP is a research program that complements the larger National Institute of Health (NIH) basic research funding stream. Unlike the NIH, PCRP has clear priorities each year that target gaps in prostate cancer diagnostics, care, and treatment with an emphasis on meeting the needs of the prostate cancer community. The programmatic review of all proposals ensures that the government is not spending scarce dollars on duplicative research.

Not only is the PCRP effective, it is military relevant. Prostate cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer among veteran men, and active duty men have an incidence rate that is twice that of the general population. In addition, it is well known that cancer diagnoses among service members or their families have a negative impact on psychological health and military readiness.

For these reasons, we request robust funding for the PCRP within the CDMRP. Researchers will use this funding to improve prostate cancer diagnosis and imaging to radically change early detection of prostate cancer and accelerate discovery of new targeted treatments for metastatic disease. When caught early, prostate cancer has a nearly one hundred percent five-year survival rate. When it has metastasized, the survival rate drops to 30 percent.

Please join us in making prostate cancer research, awareness and early detection a national health care priority by ensuring that adequate resources are available for the DOD PCRP. We recognize the difficult task ahead of your subcommittee in setting priorities among the many needs of our nation, but we appreciate your consideration of this request.

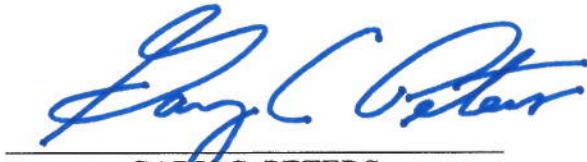
Sincerely,



ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator



MIKE CRAPO
United States Senator



GARY C. PETERS
United States Senator



SUSAN M. COLLINS
United States Senator



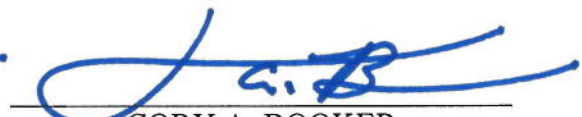
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
United States Senator



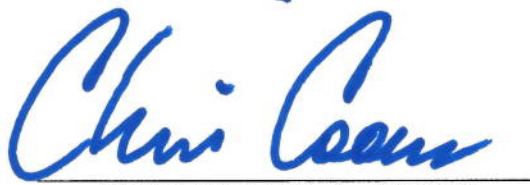
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