

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chair
Subcommittee on Defense
House Appropriations Committee
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair McCollum and Ranking Member Calvert:

On behalf of the nearly one million Americans living with multiple sclerosis (MS), we thank you for your past support for MS research. As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Department of Defense Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you maintain the current funding level of \$20 million for the Multiple Sclerosis Research Program (MSRP) at the Department of Defense.

MS is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system that disrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis, but the progress, severity, and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, with at least two to three times more women than men being diagnosed with the disease. While there currently is no cure, investment in research will drive solutions that will bring us closer to a world free of MS.

Nearly 70,000 American veterans live with MS and over the past decade, approximately 2,600 active-duty service members and Reservists were diagnosis with MS. An MS diagnosis may take several years, and often results in a medical military discharge. An advisory committee commissioned by the VA recommended further study into the potential link between combat service and increased risk of developing MS. Congressional investment in the MSRP is driving novel research that is expediting the development of new solutions for people with MS and targeting a cure for MS.

We again thank you for your longtime support of MS research and respectfully request continued funding of \$20 million for the MSRP in the FY2022 Defense Appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tony Cárdenas

Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick

Member of Congress



Lori Trahan

Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Colin Allred
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Karen Bass
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Carolyn Bourdeaux
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
André Carson
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Sean Casten
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Judy Chu
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

_/s/ _____
Angie Craig
Member of Congress

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Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

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Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

_/s/ _____
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

_/s/ _____
Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress

_/s/ _____
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

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Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

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Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

_/s/ _____
Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

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Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

_/s/ _____
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

_/s/ _____
Bill Foster
Member of Congress

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Jared Golden
Member of Congress

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Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress

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Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

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Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

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Al Green
Member of Congress

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Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

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Michael Guest
Member of Congress

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Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

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Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

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Jim Himes
Member of Congress

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Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

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Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

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Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

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Ron Kind
Member of Congress

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Conor Lamb
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James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

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Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

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John B. Larson
Member of Congress

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Mike Levin
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Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

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Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

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Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

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Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

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Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

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A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

_____/s/
David B. McKinley P.E.
Member of Congress

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Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

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Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

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Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

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Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

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Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

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Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress

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Bill Posey
Member of Congress

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Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

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Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

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Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress

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Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

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Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

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Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress

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Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress

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Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

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Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress

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Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

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Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

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Mark Takano
Member of Congress

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Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

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Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

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William R. Timmons IV
Member of Congress

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Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

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Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

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Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

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Peter Welch
Member of Congress

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Susan Wild
Member of Congress

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Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

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John Yarmuth
Member of Congress