

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

March 17, 2016

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense  
H-405, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense  
2328 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky:

In 2015, approximately 231,840 women and 2,350 men in the United States were diagnosed with invasive breast cancer and more than 40,000 will die of the disease this year. While we have made some progress in prevention efforts, more accurate diagnosis and better treatments, much work remains to be done to end breast cancer once and for all. As a nation, we must continue to show a commitment to changing these statistics.

Fortunately, thanks to your leadership and support, as well as that of the Department of Defense (DOD) Appropriations Subcommittee and the entire Appropriations Committee, the DOD peer-reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) has led the way in the fight against breast cancer since it began in 1992. Now, the DOD BCRP offers true promise in finding the answers necessary to end breast cancer for good. **In order to continue its progress towards this goal, we urge you to include robust funding for the DOD BCRP in the Department of Defense Appropriations bill for fiscal year (FY) 2017.**

As you both are aware, the DOD BCRP has established itself across the nation and around the world as a model medical research program. Some of the keys to the DOD peer-reviewed BCRP's success are:

- **It is innovative and unique.** The DOD BCRP has a unique grants structure that allows it to be more flexible than other traditional competitive, peer-reviewed medical research programs. Due to this structure, it is able to fund innovative, high-risk, high-return research and quickly respond to current scientific advances. In addition, the DOD peer-reviewed BCRP is able to fill gaps by focusing on areas of research that are promising but otherwise underfunded.

In its reviews of the DOD BCRP, the Institute of Medicine has stated, "the program fills a unique niche among public and private funding sources for cancer research. It is not duplicative of other programs and is a promising vehicle for forging new ideas and scientific breakthroughs in the nation's fight against breast cancer."

- **It addresses specific needs.** The DOD BCRP directs research to address specific health concerns that are a priority and identifies the specific research areas where funding is to be allocated.

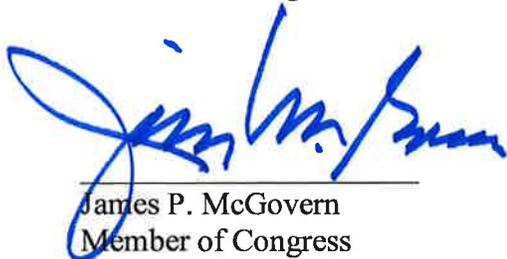
- **It is accountable to the public and transparent.** Educated, trained consumer advocates participate in a two-tiered process where research proposals are reviewed first for scientific quality, and then for programmatic relevance. This consumer involvement allows for grant funding decisions to be based on the real-life experiences, concerns and needs of both the patient and medical communities. Once funded by the DOD BCRP, each researcher must present their results online on the program's website and at public meetings called "Era of Hope." This transparency allows scientists, consumers and the public to view the progress made in breast cancer research through the DOD BCRP.
- **It has produced extraordinary results.** The DOD BCRP has made significant scientific breakthroughs that have contributed to our understanding and treatment of breast cancer. For example, the drug trastuzumab (Herceptin) – developed as a result of research funded through the DOD BCRP – is prolonging the lives of women with a particularly aggressive type of advanced breast cancer that was previously untreatable.
- **It benefits all.** As the first of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRPs), the DOD BCRP strives to uphold the vision of the CDMRPs "to find and fund the best research to eradicate diseases and support the war fighter for the benefit of the American public." It does so by directly supporting the over 400,000 women currently serving on active duty and in the Reserves and National Guard, their male counterparts, and their families, as well as the millions living with breast cancer across the nation and around the world.

The DOD BCRP has proven itself a powerful weapon in the fight against breast cancer and continues to bring us closer to finding the answers necessary to end breast cancer once and for all. On behalf of the millions of Americans living with breast cancer, their families, and friends, **we ask you to continue your support for and investment in the DOD peer-reviewed BCRP and include robust funding in the Department of Defense Appropriations bill for FY2017.**

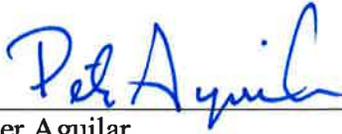
Sincerely,

  
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

  
Peter T. King  
Member of Congress

  
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

  
Ryan Costello  
Member of Congress



Peter Aguilar  
Member of Congress



Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta  
Member of Congress



Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek M.D.  
Member of Congress



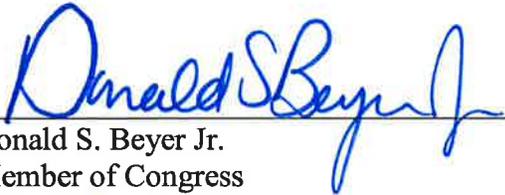
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress



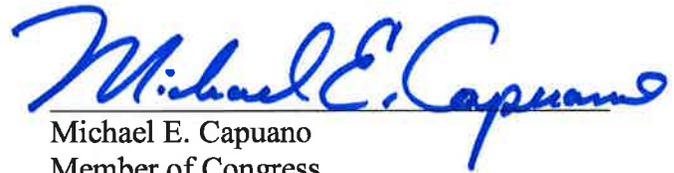
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



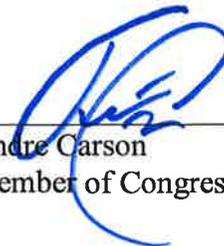
Rod Blum  
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



Matthew Cartwright  
Member of Congress



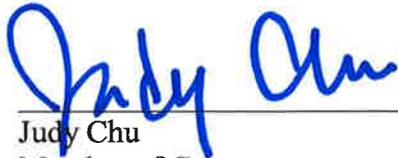
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



Chris Collins  
Member of Congress



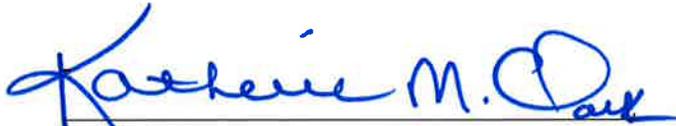
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress



John Conyers  
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



William "Lacy" Clay, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



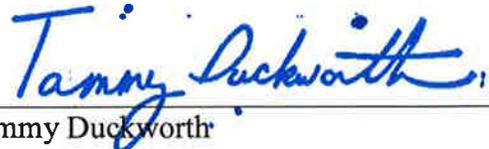
Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth  
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Keith M. Ellison  
Member of Congress



John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress



Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Mike Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Frank C. Guinta

Frank C. Guinta  
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel

Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress

Janice Hahn

Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge

Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

John Garamendi

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

Jim Himes

Jim Himes  
Member of Congress

Christopher Gibson

Christopher Gibson  
Member of Congress

Denny Heck

Denny Heck  
Member of Congress

Alan Grayson

Alan Grayson  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

Al Green

Al Green  
Member of Congress

Will Hurd

Will Hurd  
Member of Congress

Raul M. Grijalva

Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



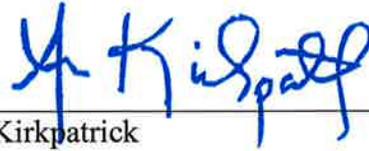
Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress



Steve King  
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



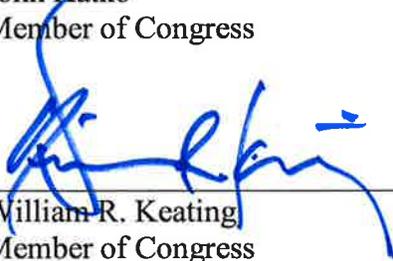
Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress



John Katko  
Member of Congress



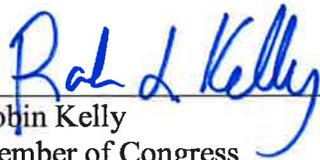
Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



Jim Langevin  
Member of Congress



Robin Kelly  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Joseph Kennedy  
Member of Congress



John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



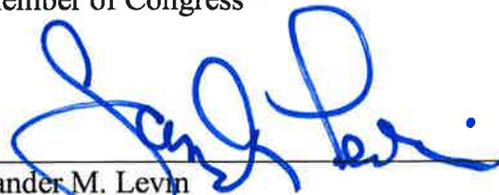
Daniel Kildee  
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

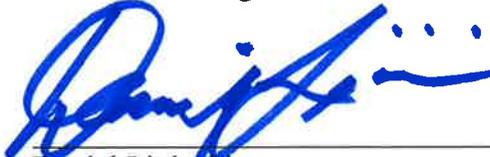


Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress

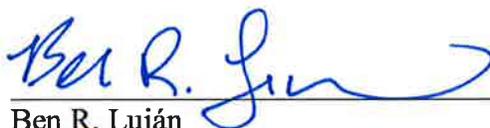
  
John Lewis  
Member of Congress

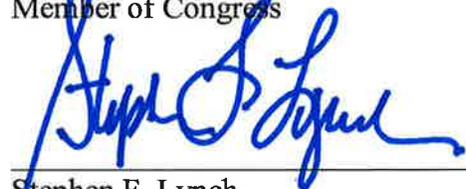
  
Daniel Lipinski  
Member of Congress

  
David Loebsock  
Member of Congress

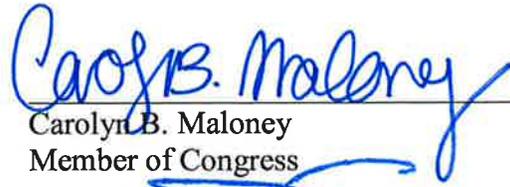
  
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

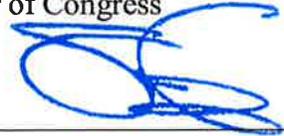
▲ 21

  
Ben R. Luján  
Member of Congress

  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

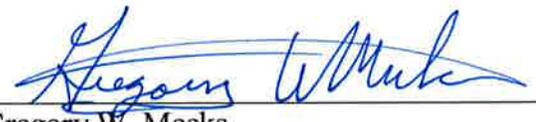
  
Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

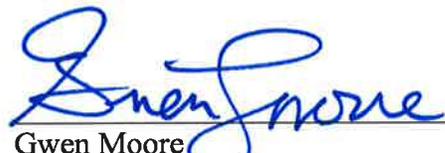
  
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

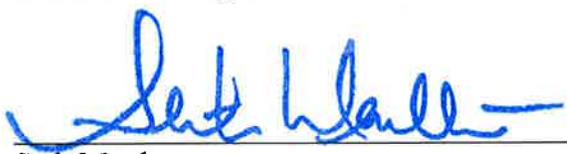
  
Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

  
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

  
Patrick Meehan  
Member of Congress

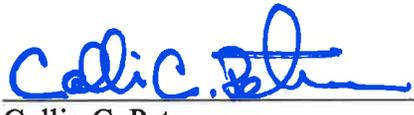
  
Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

  
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

  
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

  
Patrick E. Murphy  
Member of Congress

  
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

  
Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress

  
Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress

  
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

  
Donald W. Norcross  
Member of Congress

  
Stacey Plaskett  
Member of Congress

  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

  
Beto O'Rourke  
Member of Congress

  
Bruce Poliquin  
Member of Congress

  
Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

  
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
David E. Price  
Member of Congress

  
Scott Peters  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_



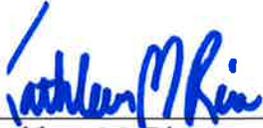
---

Reid Ribble  
Member of Congress



---

Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



---

Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress



---

David Scott  
Member of Congress



---

Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress



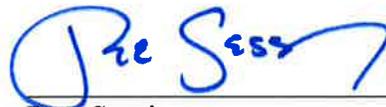
---

Robert C. Scott  
Member of Congress



---

Raul Ruiz  
Member of Congress



---

Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress



---

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



---

Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



---

Linda T. Sanchez  
Member of Congress



---

Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress



---

Loretta Sánchez  
Member of Congress



---

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



---

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



---

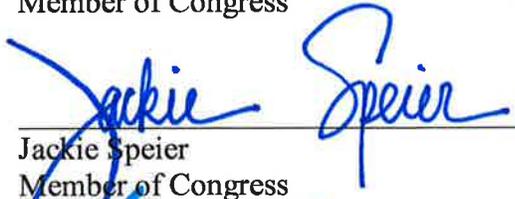
Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



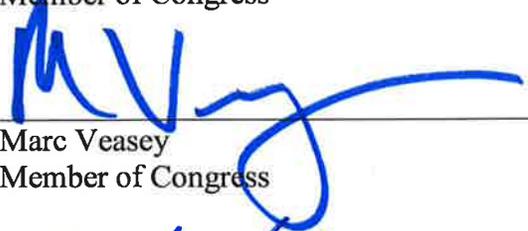
Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress



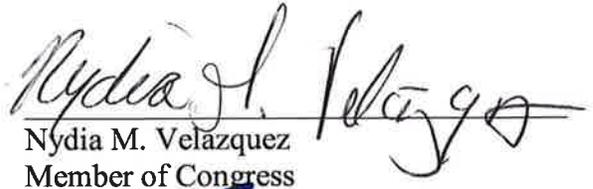
Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress



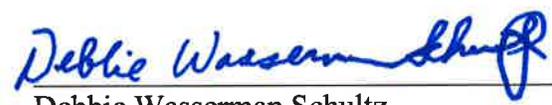
Glenn 'GT' Thompson  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velazquez  
Member of Congress



Tim Walz  
Member of Congress



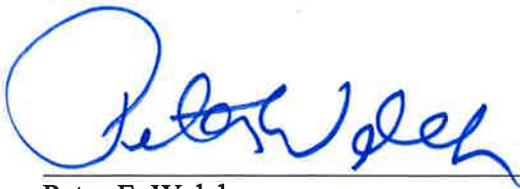
Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Peter F. Welch  
Member of Congress



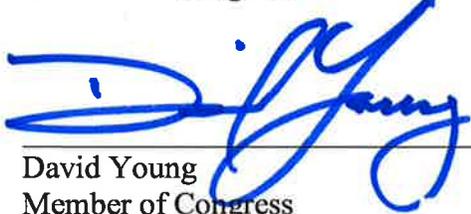
Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



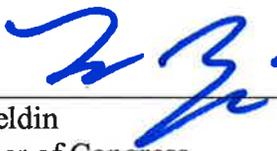
John A. Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



Don Young  
Member of Congress



David Young  
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress



David Cicilline  
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



Renee Ellmers  
Member of Congress



Mike Honda  
Member of Congress



Brad Ashford  
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress



Karen Bass  
Member of Congress