

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

April 3, 2009

The Honorable John Murtha  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
H-149, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Defense  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Murtha and Ranking Member Young:

On behalf of the millions of Americans deeply affected by ovarian cancer, we write to express our strong support for increased funding for the Ovarian Cancer Research Program funded through the Department of Defense's (DoD) Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP). We respectfully request that the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense allocate \$30 million for the Ovarian Cancer Research Program (OCRP) for Fiscal Year 2010.

This program supports important biomedical research grants that fill gaps in ongoing research and complement initiatives sponsored by other agencies. According to a 2004 Institute of Medicine report, the CDMRP research programs fill a "unique niche" in cancer research and have proven to be promising vehicles for forging new ideas and scientific breakthroughs for numerous diseases. The program focuses on providing funding to researchers who wish to improve current approaches to their areas of investigation – implementing innovative methods of research or developing novel adaptations of existing methods.

The investment Congress has made in the DoD's CDMRP for ovarian cancer since 1997 is greatly appreciated and has made incredible strides in our battle against this deadliest of gynecologic cancers. Enhanced investment, however, is needed if breakthroughs are to continue.


One in 72 women will develop ovarian cancer, and less than half will survive for five years. A woman dies of ovarian cancer every hour. An estimated 15,000 women died from ovarian cancer in 2008, and it is expected that more than 21,000 women will be diagnosed with the disease this year. Adequately funding this research program is essential to our country's fight against this deadly disease – the fifth leading cause of cancer death among American women. With this devastating mortality rate, we cannot afford to flat-line fund this program. Therefore, we respectfully request \$30 million for FY 2010.

Since 1998, research conducted through the DoD's OCRP has contributed 246 publications and 274 abstracts, serving to bolster and expand the limited body of

scientific knowledge of ovarian cancer. Perhaps most significantly, the DoD's OCRP is responsible for the recruitment of 28 new investigators and the development of nine patents. With FY 2008 monies, the DoD made 15 awards, adding to the more than 170 awards granted since 1997. This wealth of scientific accomplishments would enjoy significant growth with expanded funding.

We recognize that your subcommittee has the difficult job of setting priorities among the many needs of our nation and we sincerely appreciate your past commitment to this critical program. With a record of success and a growing core of investigators who are contributing vital knowledge to improving prevention, early diagnosis, and survival rates for ovarian cancer, the DoD CDMRP is making a difference in the lives of millions of Americans. Thank you again for your attention to this request.

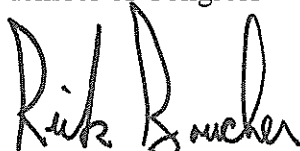
Sincerely,



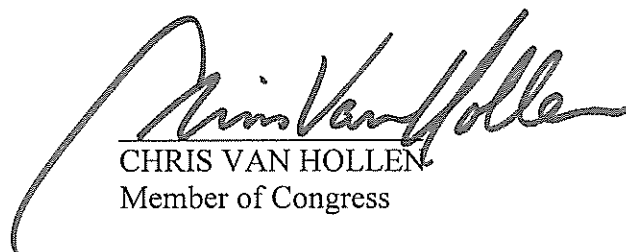
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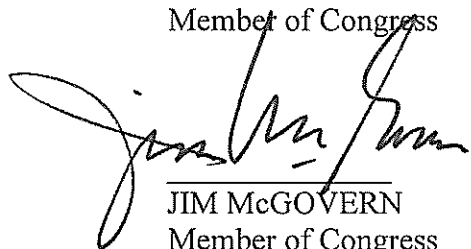
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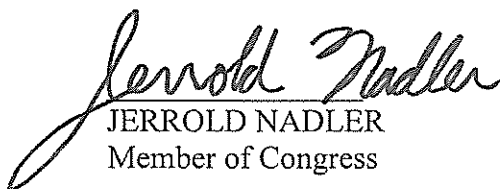
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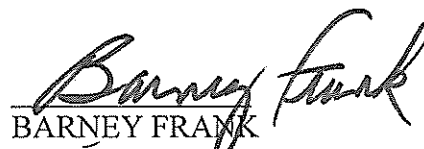
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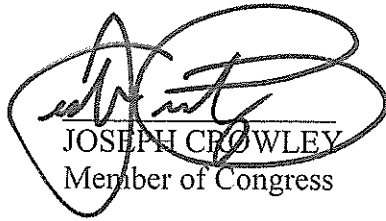
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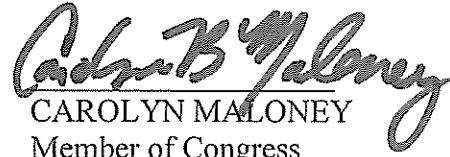
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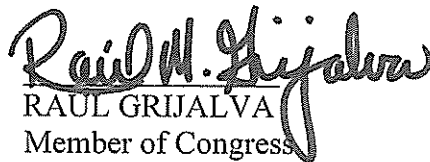
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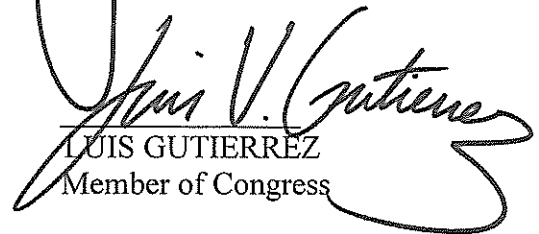
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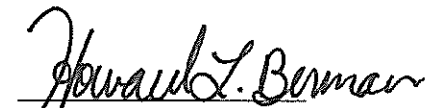
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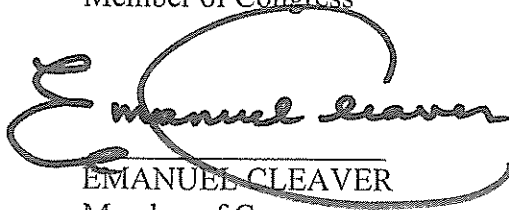
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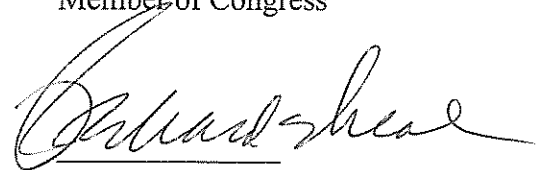
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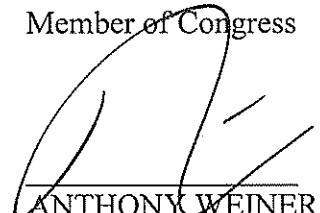
  
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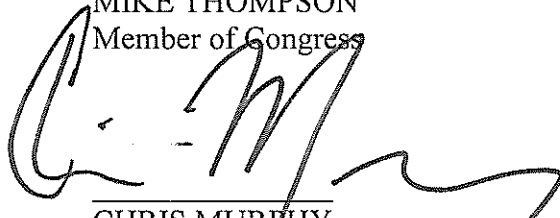
  
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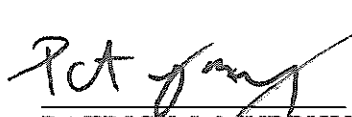
  
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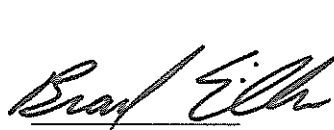
  
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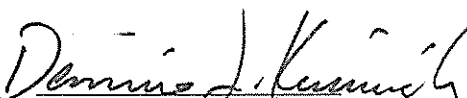
  
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