

HELP US FIGHT OVARIAN CANCER

Dear Colleague:

We write to ask you to sign on to the attached letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee in support of increased funding for the Department of Defense's (DoD) Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) for ovarian cancer research in FY 2011.

Through innovative cross-institutional research practices, the DoD's research program for ovarian cancer has become the gold standard in cancer research. Without sufficient funding, however, this program cannot continue to translate research breakthroughs that are necessary for clinical trials, which bring new medicines to patients who desperately need them.

There is currently no early detection test for ovarian cancer, so more than 80 percent of women are diagnosed in later stages, where survival rates significantly decrease. If diagnosed early, more than 90 percent of women survive at least five years, but when diagnosed in the late stages survival rates are less than 30 percent. Furthermore, approximately three-fourths of women with ovarian cancer have a recurrence; often prior treatments will not work for these women, leaving them with few options. These statistics are sobering, and yet funding for ovarian cancer research at the DoD was cut by \$1.25 million in FY 2010, from \$20 million to \$18.75 million.

Also, not only can the grants funded by DoD ovarian cancer research lead to new methods for early detection and for treatment of this deadly cancer, these grants can also bring new jobs to the research institutions awarded grants through this very competitive process. For each dollar of biomedical research funding, more than two dollars is generated in state economic output.

We hope that you will join us in signing the attached letter in support of the DoD CDMRP for ovarian cancer. If you have any questions or would like to sign on, please contact Dan Zeitlin (DeLauro) by phone at 5-3661 or email at daniel.zeitlin@mail.house.gov or Brian Fauls (Burton) by phone at 5-2275 or email at brian.fauls2@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress

DAN BURTON
Member of Congress

March XX, 2010

Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense
Room H-149 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman and Ranking Member:

On behalf of the millions of Americans touched by ovarian cancer, we write to express our strong support for increased funding for the Department of Defense (DoD) Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) for ovarian cancer research. We respectfully request that the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense allocate \$30 million for the Ovarian Cancer Research Program (OCRCP) in Fiscal Year 2011.

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 programs focus 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 CDMRP since 1992 is greatly appreciated and has led to incredible strides in our battle against ovarian cancer. Enhanced investment, however, is needed if breakthroughs toward finding a reliable method of early diagnosis and better treatments for ovarian cancer recurrence are to continue.

One in 72 women will develop ovarian cancer, and less than half will survive for five years. It is expected that more than 21,000 women will be diagnosed with the disease this year and an estimated 15,000 women will die, 1-2 every hour, from ovarian cancer in FY11. Adequately funding the DoD OCRCP 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 not increase the funding for this program.

To date, research conducted through the DoD OCRCP has contributed 469 publications and 576 abstracts/presentations, serving to bolster and expand the limited body of scientific knowledge of ovarian cancer. Perhaps most significantly, the DoD OCRCP is responsible for the recruitment of 28 new investigators and the development of 24 patents. This wealth of scientific

accomplishment would enjoy significant growth with expanded funding. Therefore, again, we respectfully request \$30 million in FY11.

We recognize that your subcommittee has the difficult job of setting priorities among the many needs of our nation, and we are greatly appreciative of the strong support the subcommittee has shown in the past for this program in providing \$25 million for the OCRP in the House bill in each of the last two years. 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,