

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 9, 2010

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Senate Dirksen Office Building, Room 119  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Senate Dirksen Office Building, Room 119  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran:

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 Senate 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 OCRP 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 OCRP 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.

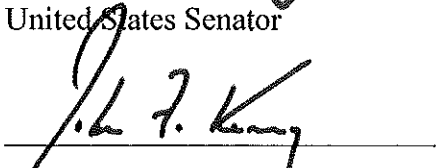
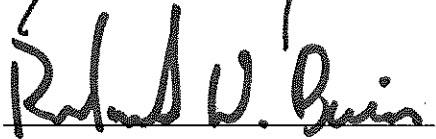
We recognize that your subcommittee has the difficult job of setting priorities among the many needs of our nation. However, with a record of success and a growing core of investigators who are contributing vital knowledge to improving prevention, early diagnosis, and survival rates for ovarian cancer, the DoD CDMRP is making a difference in the lives of millions of Americans. Therefore, again, we respectfully request \$30 million in FY11.

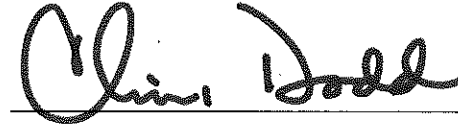

Thank you again for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

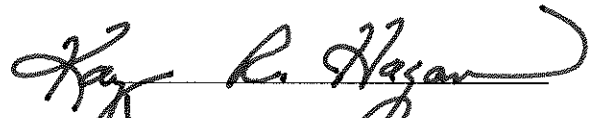
  
ROBERT MENENDEZ  
United States Senator

  
OLYMPIA SNOWE  
United States Senator

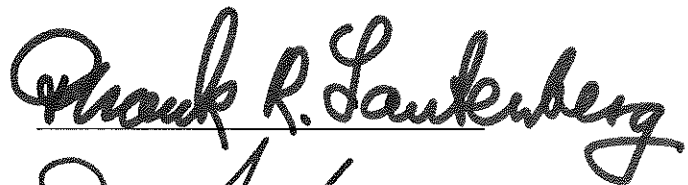




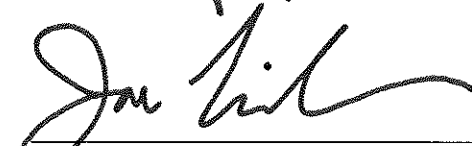











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