



November 8, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Leahy, and Vice Chairman Shelby:

Thank you for your work in leading your committees' efforts in proposing increases for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical and Prosthetic Research program for fiscal year (FY) 2022. The 88 undersigned members of the Friends of VA Medical Care and Health Research (FOVA) coalition write to urge swift enactment of FY 2022 appropriations to ensure continuation of the best medical research and clinical care for our veterans. FOVA was founded over 30 years ago to ensure that America's veterans receive high-quality health care. Today, FOVA is a diverse coalition representing nearly 100 national academic, medical, and scientific societies; voluntary health and patient advocacy groups; and veteran-focused associations that work in concert with the Independent Budget veterans service organizations to advocate for continued, necessary funding for the research and health programs that serve the nation's veterans.

FOVA is appreciative of the bipartisan funding increases Congress has provided for the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research program in recent years, allowing VA to expand and excel in developing innovative treatments and diagnostics and to use cutting edge technology to care for veterans. To continue this momentum, **we urge swift approval of the House-passed funding level of \$904 million for the VA research program for FY 2022**, a funding level in line with [FOVA's FY 2022 recommendation](#). We hope the final spending bill will reflect this continued commitment to the VA research program at this critical time.

The current continuing resolution, which keeps funding at FY 2021 levels, fails to keep pace with biomedical inflation and impedes VA research in all priority areas, including preventing veteran suicide, chronic pain, post-traumatic stress disorder, precision oncology, COVID-19, and other conditions with increased incidences in veterans. The associated uncertainty and delay in enacting FY 2022 funding jeopardizes VA's ability to enter into long-term research commitments and slows the translation of research findings into high-quality, timely health care services for veterans. In addition, the impacts of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic on researchers, including at the VA, and the patients who benefit from their discoveries, will reverberate for years to come. Increased

investments in the VA research program as soon as possible are critical to maintain previous commitments and to support research recovery.

We urge Congress to again work in a bipartisan manner to finalize and implement a meaningful increase reflected in a \$904 million appropriation for the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research program for FY 2022 as quickly as possible, so veteran-centric research can continue without further interruption. We look forward to working with you towards this goal.

Sincerely,

Academic Consortium for Integrative  
Medicine & Health  
AcademyHealth  
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine  
(AAIM)  
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma &  
Immunology  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Physical Medicine &  
Rehabilitation  
American Association for the Study of Liver  
Diseases  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of  
Osteopathic Medicine  
American Association of Colleges of  
Pharmacy  
American Association of Directors of  
Psychiatric Residency Training  
American Association of Neurological  
Surgeons  
American Brain Coalition  
American College of Clinical Pharmacology  
American College of  
Neuropsychopharmacology  
American College of Obstetricians and  
Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Radiology  
American Dental Education Association  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Heart Association  
American Liver Foundation  
American Massage Therapy Association  
American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association

American Physical Therapy Association  
American Physiological Society  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Society for Pharmacology and  
Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Spinal Injury Association  
American Surgical Association (ASA)  
American Thoracic Society  
American Tinnitus Association  
American Urological Association  
Associated Medical Schools of New York  
(AMSNY)  
Arthritis Foundation  
Association for Research in Vision and  
Ophthalmology (ARVO)  
Association of Academic Health Sciences  
Libraries  
Association of Academic Physiatrists  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Chairs of Departments of  
Physiology  
Association of Minority Health Professions  
Schools  
Association of Pathology Chairs  
Association of Psychologists in Academic  
Health Centers  
Association of University Anesthesiologists  
Association of University Professors of  
Ophthalmology  
Association of University Radiologists  
Association of VA Hematology/Oncology  
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse  
Anesthetists (AVANA)  
Blinded Veterans Association  
Catholic War Veterans of the USA Inc.

Cohen Veterans Bioscience  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
DAV (Disabled American Veterans)  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Dystonia Advocacy Network  
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
Endocrine Society  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Federation of American Societies for  
Experimental Biology  
GBS|CIDP Foundation International  
International Foundation for Gastrointestinal  
Disorders  
Interstitial Cystitis Association  
LUNGeivity Foundation  
Lymphatic Education & Research Network  
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Alopecia Areata Foundation

National Association for the Advancement of  
Orthotics and Prosthetics  
National Association of Veterans' Research  
and Education Foundations  
NephCure Kidney International  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs  
(NOVA)  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Project Sleep  
Prostate Cancer Foundation  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation  
Scleroderma Foundation  
Sleep Research Society  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society of Academic Associations of  
Anesthesiology and Perioperative  
Medicine  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Vietnam Veterans of America

cc:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate