

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 25, 2014

Dear Colleague:

I hope you will join me in supporting funding for kidney cancer research by signing the attached letter to the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. The letter requests that the Subcommittee provide \$15 million within the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) for this purpose in the Fiscal Year 2015 Department of Defense (DOD) Appropriations bill.

I am grateful for the Committee's past support of kidney cancer research and believe an investment through CDMRP would make a tremendous difference to millions of Americans. Due to the Committee's significant past efforts, kidney cancer was added to the DOD Peer Reviewed Medical Research and Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Programs, and \$6.3 million in research grants have been provided through these programs since 2006. This research is making great strides in our understanding of kidney cancer. For example, past year's grants are being used to find biomarkers that can determine the risk of recurrence of kidney cancer; we are hopeful that this research will help inform treatment decisions and one day prevent the return of cancer in patients. Although this research represents important progress, it is our understanding that there have been far more applications for the research program than funding available.

The fight to defeat kidney cancer continues. Kidney cancer has the third highest rising incidence rate of cancers overall. It is the fourth leading cancer among both African American males and Hispanic males.

In addition to the alarming increase in the patient population, mortality rates for kidney cancer patients are disturbingly high. The absence of screening techniques to provide early diagnosis, coupled with the limited treatments that are currently available, present challenges for detection and management of the disease. For example, there is only one FDA-approved drug for metastatic kidney cancer that has shown any durable response, and this only applies to 6 percent of patients. Unlike other types of cancer, no therapy currently exists to prevent the recurrence of kidney cancer once patients are in remission. But in recent years, targeted therapies initially developed for metastatic kidney cancer have gone on to be tested in other cancers; one drug first tested and approved by the FDA for kidney cancer has been in clinical trials for 27 other cancers. I am encouraged by this progress and hopeful that an investment in kidney cancer research could result in benefits for many other cancers as well.

According to the National Cancer Institute (NCI), kidney cancer increased by 13 percent from 1998 through 2003. However, over the same period, the rate of usage of VA facilities by veterans diagnosed with kidney cancer increased by over 26 percent, double the amount of the general population. Given this increase in the disease burden in the U.S. veteran population, we believe it is appropriate to have the Department of Defense provide research funding necessary to develop innovative treatment options to combat this deadly disease.

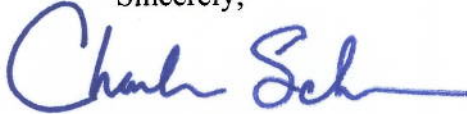
The NCI estimates that \$3.8 billion is spent in the United States each year on treatment of kidney cancer. I hope you will agree that this devastating illness deserves an increase in research funding supported by the Department of Defense Appropriations bill and will join me in sending the

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attached letter. If you would like to sign the letter or have any questions, please have your staff contact Morgan Brand of my staff at 4-7392.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles E. Schumer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

April XX, 2014

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Defense
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Defense
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin & Ranking Member Cochran:

We respectfully request your support to provide \$15 million within the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) in the Fiscal Year 2015 Department of Defense (DOD) Appropriations bill to fund kidney cancer research.

We would also like to thank you for adding kidney cancer to the DOD Peer Reviewed Medical Research and Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Programs, which, since 2006, have resulted in research grants valued at \$6.3 million, providing significant research for this cancer. For example, last year's awards are being used to find biomarkers that can determine the risk of recurrence of kidney cancer. Unfortunately, while this research represents important progress, there have been far more applications for the research program than funding available. We very much appreciate the Committee's past support and believe an investment through CDMRP would make a tremendous difference to many Americans.

Kidney cancer has the third highest rising incidence rate of cancers overall. It is the fourth leading cancer among both African American males and Hispanic males. According to the National Cancer Institute (NCI), kidney cancer increased by 13 percent from 1998 through 2003. However, over the same period, the rate of usage of Veterans Affairs facilities by veterans diagnosed with kidney cancer increased by over 26 percent, double the amount of the general population. Given this increase in the disease burden in the U.S. veteran population, we believe it is appropriate to have the Department of Defense provide research funding necessary to develop innovative treatment options to combat this deadly disease.

Mortality rates for kidney cancer patients are disturbingly high due to the absence of screening techniques to provide early diagnosis, coupled with the limited treatments that are currently available. For example, there is only one FDA-approved drug for metastatic kidney cancer that has shown any durable response, and this only applies to 6 percent of patients. In recent years, targeted therapies initially developed for metastatic kidney cancer have gone on to be tested in other cancers. For example, one drug first tested and approved by the FDA for kidney cancer has been in clinical trials for 27 other cancers. So an investment in kidney cancer research could result in benefits for many other cancers as well. However, unlike other types of cancer, no therapy currently exists to prevent future recurrence of kidney cancer once patients are in remission.

The National Cancer Institute estimates that \$3.8 billion is spent in the United States each year on treatment of kidney cancer. This devastating illness deserves the federal research funding supported by the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program. We respectfully request that you

provide \$15 million within the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) in the Fiscal Year 2015 Department of Defense (DOD) Appropriations bill to fund kidney cancer research. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Support Funding for Kidney Cancer Research
Deadline: COB 3/28/14
***This is a Programmatic Request**

March 20, 2014

Dear Colleague:

We hope that you will join us in supporting funding for kidney cancer research by signing the attached letter to the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. The letter requests that the Subcommittee provide \$15 million within the Congressional Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) for kidney cancer research in the FY 2015 Defense Appropriations bill.

We are grateful for the Committee's past support of kidney cancer research and believe an investment through CDMRP would make a tremendous difference to millions of Americans. Due to the Committee's significant past efforts, kidney cancer was added to the DOD Peer Review Medical Research Program and then to the DOD Peer Review Cancer Research Program resulting in \$6.3 million in kidney cancer research grants since 2006.

In 2014, it is estimated that 63,920 new cases of kidney cancer will be diagnosed and 13,860 people will die from this disease. Kidney cancer is the fourth leading cancer in African American males Hispanic males. The rate of people developing kidney cancer has been climbing for the last 65 years.

While there is only one FDA-approved drug for metastatic kidney cancer that has shown any durable response, targeted therapies have been developed in recent years. After showing some efficacy in kidney cancer patients, these drugs go on to be tested on other cancer. So, an investment in kidney cancer research can be beneficial for many other types of cancer. However, no therapy currently exists to prevent the recurrence of kidney cancer once a patient is in remission.

The National Cancer Institute estimates that \$3.8 billion is spent in the United States each year on treatment of kidney cancer. We encourage you to support dedicated funding for kidney cancer research and join us in sending the attached letter. If you have any questions or would like to sign the letter, please have your staff contact Jamie Tricarico (Rep. King) at Jamie.Tricarico@mail.house.gov or Kimberly Young (Rep. McCarthy) at Kimberly.Young@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

PETER T. KING
Member of Congress

CAROLYN MCCARTHY
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 2, 2014

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky:

We respectfully request that you support funding for kidney cancer research and specifically ask that you provide \$15 million within the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) for this purpose in the Fiscal Year 2015 Defense Appropriations bill.

We would also like to thank you for adding kidney cancer to the Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Research Programs, which, since 2006, has resulted in kidney cancer research grants valued at \$6.3 million, providing significant research for this cancer. Unfortunately, there have been far more applications for the research program than there is funding available. We very much appreciate the Committee's past support and believe an investment through CDMRP would make a tremendous difference to many Americans.

In 2014, kidney cancer will lead to an estimated 13,860 deaths and 63,920 new diagnoses, making it the ninth most common cancer in the United States. Kidney cancer has the fifth highest rising incidence rate of cancers overall and is the fourth leading cancer in African American and Hispanic males. The rate of people developing kidney cancer has been climbing for the last 65 years.

According to the National Cancer Institute, kidney cancer has increased by 13% over the 5-year period from 1998-2003, however over the same period, the rate of usage of VA facilities by veterans diagnosed with kidney cancer increased by over 26%, double the amount of the general population. Given this increase in the disease burden in the U.S. veteran population, we believe it is appropriate to have the Department of Defense provide research funding necessary to develop innovative treatment options to combat this deadly disease.

Mortality rates for kidney cancer patients are disturbingly high due to the absence of screening techniques to provide early diagnosis coupled with the limited treatments that are currently available. While there is currently only one FDA-approved drug for metastatic kidney cancer that has shown any durable response, and that for only 6% of patients, targeted therapies have been developed in recent years. After showing some efficacy in kidney cancer patients, these drugs go on to be tested on other cancer. So, an investment in kidney cancer research benefits many other types of cancer. However, unlike other forms of cancer, no therapy currently exists to prevent the recurrence of kidney cancer for patients in remission.

The National Cancer Institute estimates that approximately \$3.8 billion is spent in the United States each year on treatment of kidney cancer. It deserves dedicated research funding supported by the Department of Defense Appropriations bill. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,