

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Support Funding for Kidney Cancer Research
Deadline: COB March 20th
This is a Programmatic Request

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 2016 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 Craig Frucht (Rep. Polis) at Craig.Frucht@mail.house.gov.


PETER T. KING
Member of Congress

Sincerely,


JARED POLIS
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2015

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 2016 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,