

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Support Funding for Kidney Cancer Research
Deadline: COB Tuesday, March 15th
*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 2017 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 including military personnel their dependents and veterans. A 2012 study identified kidney cancer as the 6th leading cancer in incidence among patients of the United States Veterans Affairs Healthcare System. Another study indicated that veterans who smoked had a 47% higher renal cancer risk relative to nonsmokers. Due to the Committee's significant past efforts, kidney cancer was added to the DOD Peer Review Medical Research Program in 2006 and then to the DOD Peer Review Cancer Research Program in 2009 resulting in more than \$9.1 million in kidney cancer research grants since 2006.

In 2015, it is estimated that 62,700 new cases of kidney cancer will be diagnosed (39,650 men and 23,050 women) and 14,240 people will die from this disease (9,240 men and 5,000 women). Kidney cancer is the ninth leading cancer overall but ranks fourth in incidence among both African American and Latino 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, several targeted therapies have been developed in recent years. After showing some efficacy in kidney cancer patients, these drugs have gone on to be tested on other cancer. So, an investment in kidney cancer research can be beneficial for many other types of cancer. Unfortunately, no therapy currently exists to prevent the recurrence of kidney cancer after a patient goes into remission.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) estimates that \$4.4 billion is spent in the United States each year on treatment of kidney cancer. In addition the NCI estimates that kidney cancer causes \$3.4 billion in lost productivity due to deaths among adults aged 20 years and older. 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 Matese (Representative King) at Jamie.Matese@mail.house.gov or Camilla Vogt (Representative Polis) at Camilla.Vogt@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,


PETER T. KING
Member of Congress


JARED POLIS
Member of Congress