

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2016

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Subcommittee Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on
Appropriations, Defense Subcommittee
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky
Subcommittee Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on
Appropriations, Defense Subcommittee
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Freylinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2017 Department of Defense (DoD) Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you include eating disorders as eligible for research funding under the Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP).

Funding through PRMRP offers an important opportunity to study diseases like eating disorders that are not well-understood, have few treatment options, and for which military service confers a higher risk.

In the United States, 30 million Americans experience a clinically significant eating disorder at some time in their life, including anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge eating disorder, and affect women 2.5 times more than men. In addition, eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of out any mental illness at 20 percent.

We are concerned about eating disorders within the military as studies show there is a higher prevalence rate amongst military members than the civilian population. A study published in the journal *Military Medicine* found that as many as 29.6 percent of female cadets and 33.6 percent of active duty females score at-risk for an eating disorder across all branches of the military-- with a very low rate of those actually opting for treatment. Of those at risk who met the criteria for having an eating disorder within the military, 21 percent reported children with similar symptoms, a rate significantly higher than the civilian population.

Despite the high prevalence and mortality rate and military correlation, there is currently minimal federal funding for eating disorders research. According to NIH, the average amount of eating disorders research dollars per affected individual was just \$0.93, while other diseases like Alzheimer's and Autism are over \$44 per affected individual.

We believe that including eating disorders for research funding through the PRMRP for FY 2017 has the potential to benefit military members and their families and vastly improve eating disorder research in this country for all who are or will be afflicted with this deadly disease, and we ask for your support.

Sincerely,



Ted Deutch
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



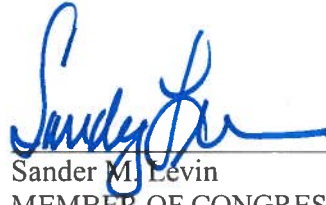
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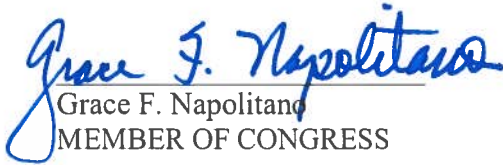
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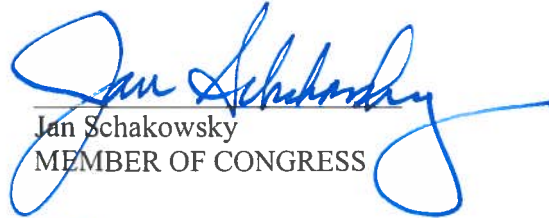
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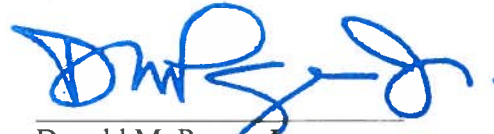
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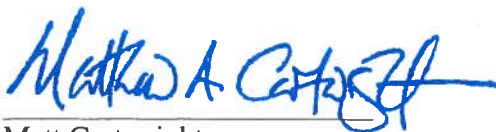
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