

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 5, 2017

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Visclosky
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Visclosky:

As you consider the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Department of Defense Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you provide \$10 million for eating disorders research under the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP). Funding through CDMRP offers an important opportunity to study diseases like eating disorders that are not well-understood, have limited treatment options, and for which military service is associated with a heightened 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. Eating disorders are serious and complex mental health conditions that affect people of all genders, ages, body sizes, races, sexual orientations and socioeconomic statuses, and have a notably higher prevalence rate in women. In addition, eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of any mental illness, a higher rate than prostate cancer and melanoma cancer, and an equal rate to acute leukemia.

Studies show there is a higher prevalence rate among military servicemembers than the civilian population. According to a study published by *Military Medicine*, as many as 30 percent of female cadets and 34 percent of active duty female servicemembers are at-risk for an eating disorder across all branches of the military. These servicemembers also have a very low rate of seeking treatment. Furthermore, children of servicemembers report similar conditions at a significantly higher rate than the civilian population—over 20 percent.

Despite the high prevalence of Americans with eating disorders, the high mortality rates of those with eating disorders, and a documented higher incidence of eating disorders among servicemembers, there is currently minimal federal funding for eating disorders research. We believe that establishing \$10 million in funding for eating disorders through the CDMRP for FY2018 will benefit military members and their families and vastly improve eating disorders research in this country for all who are or will be affected by this deadly disease. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan Costello". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Ryan A. Costello
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chellie Pingree". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress


A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ileana Ros-Lehtinen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "I".


Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

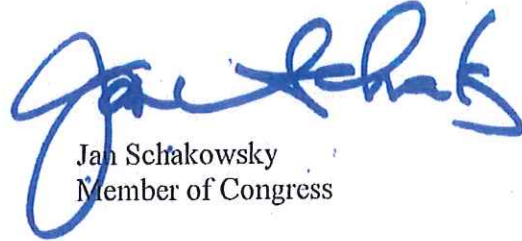
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ted Deutch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T".

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress


Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress


Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress


Judy Chu
Member of Congress


Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress


Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress


Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress


Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



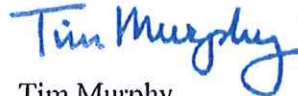
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



Susan Davis
Member of Congress



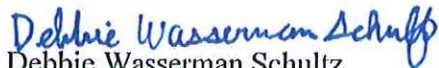
Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress



Anthony Brown
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



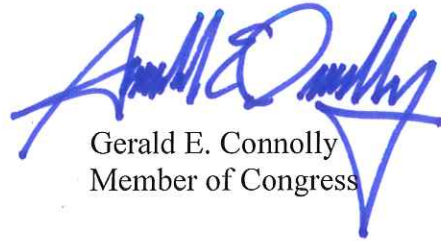
Al Lawson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress