Dear Chairman Tester and Ranking Member Shelby,

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year 2023 Defense Appropriations Bill, we respectfully ask that you ensure eating disorders are included in the FY 2023 Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs and provide robust funding for the treatment and research of eating disorders. We appreciate your commitment to military eating disorder research under the PRMRP since the FY 2017 Department of Defense appropriations bill and urge you to continue this support.

Service members are affected by eating disorders at elevated and accelerating rates compared to civilians due to risk factors unique to their military experience. In fact, the Defense Health Board released a report, stating that active-duty service women are disproportionately affected by eating disorders, and 16% of female veterans currently suffer from an eating disorder. Military spouses and children are also affected at higher rates than the general population; 21% of children of service members and 26% of spouses of service members are symptomatic for an eating disorder; rates 3 times higher than their civilian peers. According to the DOD, 19,468 service member dependents received an eating disorder diagnosis from FY 2014 through FY 2018.

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Since FY 2017, the PRMRP has identified an overwhelming number of research applications on military and military family eating disorders, demonstrating the significant need to continue efforts to provide research funding for this issue. We believe that maintaining the eligibility of eating disorders under the PRMRP in FY 2023 is important to advancing research that would improve care for our service members and their families. We urge you to include this request in the upcoming package.

Sincerely,

Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

Mike Rounds  
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator