



November 8, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Leahy, and Vice Chairman Shelby:

Thank you for your work in leading your committees' efforts in proposing increases for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical and Prosthetic Research program for fiscal year (FY) 2022. The 88 undersigned members of the Friends of VA Medical Care and Health Research (FOVA) coalition write to urge swift enactment of FY 2022 appropriations to ensure continuation of the best medical research and clinical care for our veterans. FOVA was founded over 30 years ago to ensure that America's veterans receive high-quality health care. Today, FOVA is a diverse coalition representing nearly 100 national academic, medical, and scientific societies; voluntary health and patient advocacy groups; and veteran-focused associations that work in concert with the Independent Budget veterans service organizations to advocate for continued, necessary funding for the research and health programs that serve the nation's veterans.

FOVA is appreciative of the bipartisan funding increases Congress has provided for the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research program in recent years, allowing VA to expand and excel in developing innovative treatments and diagnostics and to use cutting edge technology to care for veterans. To continue this momentum, **we urge swift approval of the House-passed funding level of \$904 million for the VA research program for FY 2022**, a funding level in line with [FOVA's FY 2022 recommendation](#). We hope the final spending bill will reflect this continued commitment to the VA research program at this critical time.

The current continuing resolution, which keeps funding at FY 2021 levels, fails to keep pace with biomedical inflation and impedes VA research in all priority areas, including preventing veteran suicide, chronic pain, post-traumatic stress disorder, precision oncology, COVID-19, and other conditions with increased incidences in veterans. The associated uncertainty and delay in enacting FY 2022 funding jeopardizes VA's ability to enter into long-term research commitments and slows the translation of research findings into high-quality, timely health care services for veterans. In addition, the impacts of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic on researchers, including at the VA, and the patients who benefit from their discoveries, will reverberate for years to come. Increased

investments in the VA research program as soon as possible are critical to maintain previous commitments and to support research recovery.

We urge Congress to again work in a bipartisan manner to finalize and implement a meaningful increase reflected in a \$904 million appropriation for the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research program for FY 2022 as quickly as possible, so veteran-centric research can continue without further interruption. We look forward to working with you towards this goal.

Sincerely,

Academic Consortium for Integrative
Medicine & Health
AcademyHealth
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
(AAIM)
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma &
Immunology
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Physical Medicine &
Rehabilitation
American Association for the Study of Liver
Diseases
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of
Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of
Pharmacy
American Association of Directors of
Psychiatric Residency Training
American Association of Neurological
Surgeons
American Brain Coalition
American College of Clinical Pharmacology
American College of
Neuropsychopharmacology
American College of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American College of Radiology
American Dental Education Association
American Gastroenterological Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Heart Association
American Liver Foundation
American Massage Therapy Association
American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association

American Physical Therapy Association
American Physiological Society
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Pharmacology and
Experimental Therapeutics
American Society of Nephrology
American Spinal Injury Association
American Surgical Association (ASA)
American Thoracic Society
American Tinnitus Association
American Urological Association
Associated Medical Schools of New York
(AMSNY)
Arthritis Foundation
Association for Research in Vision and
Ophthalmology (ARVO)
Association of Academic Health Sciences
Libraries
Association of Academic Physiatrists
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Chairs of Departments of
Physiology
Association of Minority Health Professions
Schools
Association of Pathology Chairs
Association of Psychologists in Academic
Health Centers
Association of University Anesthesiologists
Association of University Professors of
Ophthalmology
Association of University Radiologists
Association of VA Hematology/Oncology
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse
Anesthetists (AVANA)
Blinded Veterans Association
Catholic War Veterans of the USA Inc.

Cohen Veterans Bioscience
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
DAV (Disabled American Veterans)
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Dystonia Advocacy Network
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Endocrine Society
Epilepsy Foundation
Federation of American Societies for
Experimental Biology
GBS/CIDP Foundation International
International Foundation for Gastrointestinal
Disorders
Interstitial Cystitis Association
LUNGeivity Foundation
Lymphatic Education & Research Network
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alopecia Areata Foundation

National Association for the Advancement of
Orthotics and Prosthetics
National Association of Veterans' Research
and Education Foundations
NephCure Kidney International
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
(NOVA)
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Project Sleep
Prostate Cancer Foundation
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation
Scleroderma Foundation
Sleep Research Society
Society for Neuroscience
Society of Academic Associations of
Anesthesiology and Perioperative
Medicine
Society of General Internal Medicine
Vietnam Veterans of America

cc:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate