

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 2, 2014

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Defense
Dirksen Senate Office Building, RM 119
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Defense
Dirksen Senate Office Building, RM 119
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Cochran:

On behalf of the millions of Americans touched each year by ovarian cancer, we are writing to express our strong support for maintaining funding for the Department of Defense's Ovarian Cancer Research Program (DoD OCRP). We thank you for your longstanding support of this program and respectfully request that the Subcommittee maintain the current funding level of \$20 million for the DoD OCRP for fiscal year 2015.

The statistics on ovarian cancer are alarming. One in 69 women (1.4 percent) will develop ovarian cancer during their lifetime, and less than half of those women will survive for five years. This year alone, it is expected that 22,000 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer and more than 14,000 women will die from the disease – an average of one death per hour. As there is currently no early detection test, 80 percent of diagnoses occur in the later stages of this disease where the survival rate is significantly lower. Additionally, about 75 percent of women who have had ovarian cancer will have a recurrence of the disease; when this happens, previously successful treatments often do not work, leaving these women with few treatment options.

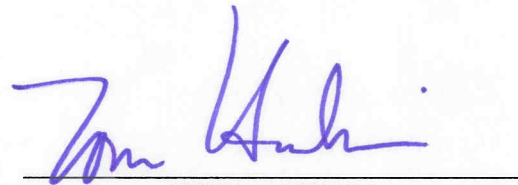
The DoD OCRP operates through the US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) and supports the forward momentum of critical ovarian cancer research to understand, prevent, and treat this disease, which affects warfighters, military beneficiaries, and the general public alike. While the DoD OCRP program has led to some remarkable breakthroughs in screening, detecting and treating ovarian cancer, researchers continue struggling to develop the first ovarian cancer screening test. Additionally, given that traditional research models have largely proven unsuccessful, the innovative grants awarded by the DoD OCRP are integral in continuing to advance efforts to better understand ovarian cancer.

With nearly 12,000 female service members – as well as the wives and daughters of active duty military – being diagnosed with ovarian cancer over the course of their lifetime, the costs to TRICARE could approach \$1 billion. Given that every dollar saved through prevention and effective treatment of ovarian cancer can be utilized by the DoD to support other critical operations, the \$20 million in fiscal year 2015 funding will not only go towards improving the military and civilian lives affected by this disease, but also towards the larger goals of our nation's military. Thank you again for your attention to this request.

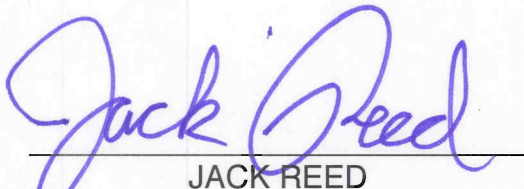
Sincerely,



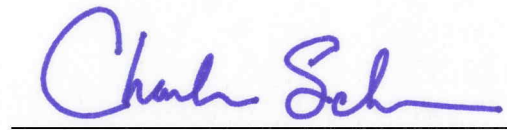
ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator



TOM HARKIN
United States Senator



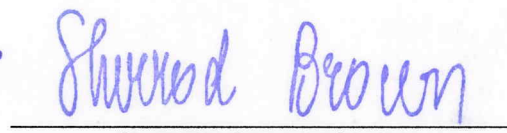
JACK REED
United States Senator



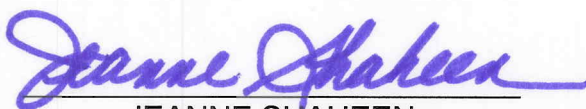
CHARLES E. SCHUMER
United States Senator



DEBBIE STABENOW
United States Senator



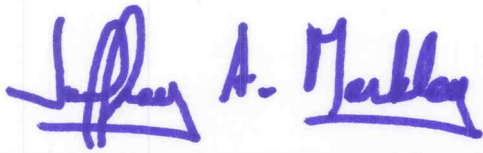
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JEANNE SHAHEEN
United States Senator



KAY R. HAGAN
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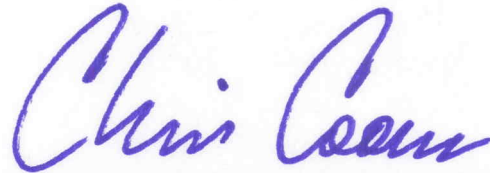
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United States Senator



MARK R. WARNER
United States Senator



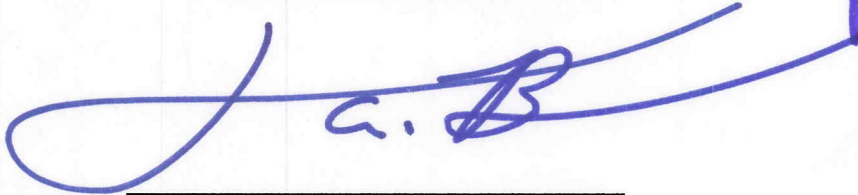
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