

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
122 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
115 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran and Ranking Member Durbin:

This year, more than 180,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and over 26,000 men will die from this disease. As you consider the FY 2017 Defense Appropriations legislation, we write to respectfully request that robust funding for the Department of Defense (DOD) Peer-Reviewed Prostate Cancer Research Program (PCRP) be maintained.

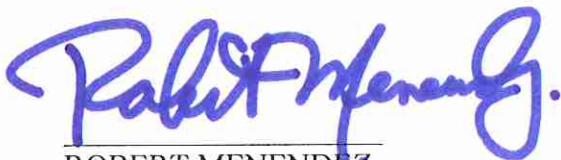
Federal funding for prostate cancer research has accounted for, on average, only 5 percent of our nation's annual cancer research budget even though it is responsible for about 26 percent of all cancer cases and about 9 percent of cancer deaths in men. The federal effort falls short of what is needed to save American lives.

Since 1996, the Committee has been instrumental in advancing prostate cancer research by funding the DOD Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program for prostate cancer. The DOD has a long history of performing medical research studies and because of its administrative structure has demonstrated an ability to be flexible and quickly adjust responses to changing needs and priorities. The PCRP is the gold standard in prostate cancer research and an integral warrior in the national fight against prostate cancer. The program has produced three new treatments in the past five years.

Funding for the PCRP is needed to help identify new prostate cancer specific biomarkers and fast forward discovery of new targeted medicines. Please join us in making prostate cancer research a national health care priority by ensuring that adequate resources are available for the DOD PCRP.

We recognize the difficult task ahead of your subcommittee in setting priorities among the many needs of our nation, but we sincerely appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator

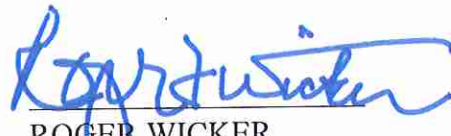


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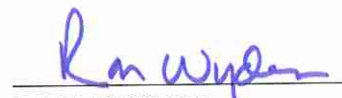
KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND

United States Senator



BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

United States Senator



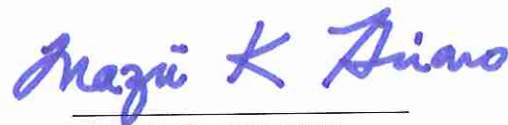
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