

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2014

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
House Appropriations Committee
H-405 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Visclosky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky:

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 (DoD) Ovarian Cancer Research Program (OCRCP). We respectfully request that the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense allocate \$20 million for the Ovarian Cancer Research Program in Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15).

One in 69 women will develop ovarian cancer, and less than half will survive for five years. A woman dies of ovarian cancer every hour. It is expected that more than 22,000 women will be diagnosed with the disease this year, and more than 14,000 women will die from ovarian cancer in 2014.

Regarding the impact to our fighting force, of the 850,000 female service members, wives of active duty military, and adult daughters of active duty military,¹ approximately 11,800 will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer over the course of their lifetime.² The cost of ovarian cancer to our military is great, not only in terms of troop readiness and preparedness, but also in terms of cancer care costs: treating all of these cases of ovarian cancer over these patients' lifetimes could cost TRICARE an estimated \$971.2 million.³ TRICARE's costs to care for women in the service with ovarian cancer could fund the DoD CDRMP for Ovarian Cancer Research for nearly 50 years at its current funding level.

The ovarian cancer research program at DoD supports high-impact innovative research that is leading to significant breakthroughs for our country. And, while this new knowledge will impact the screening, detection, and treatment of ovarian cancer, it also helps our knowledge, in general, regarding biomarkers and in understanding how to identify substances in a person's blood, in how to develop better vaccines, in how to understand why cells mutate when exposed to certain conditions, and more. This is knowledge that can be used by all scientists, including those looking to develop and protect our military from

¹ Military Demographics for 2012. Available here:

http://www.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2012_Demographics_Report.pdf.

² The lifetime risk of a women developing ovarian cancer is 1.4% according to the SEER Fact Sheet available here:
<http://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/ovary.html>.

³ The average cost of frontline ovarian cancer therapy is \$82,000, per the National Institutes of Health.
<http://costprojections.cancer.gov/annual.costs.html>

various biomedical threats. The strategic partnerships between our military, patients, clinicians, and scientists are accelerating the science and discovery.

While we recognize that your Subcommittee has the difficult job of setting priorities among the many needs of our nation, with a record of success and a growing core of investigators who are contributing vital knowledge to improving prevention, early diagnosis, and survival rates from ovarian cancer, the DoD OCRP is making a difference in the lives of the millions of Americans, including our military and their families. Thank you again for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



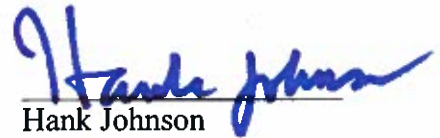
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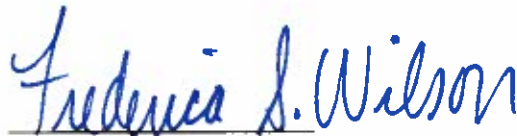
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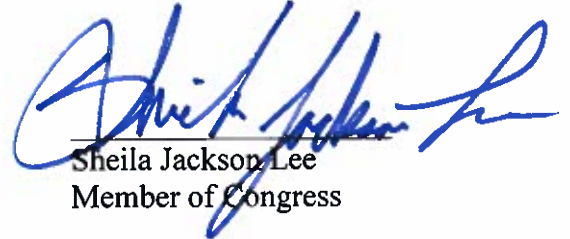
Sam Farr
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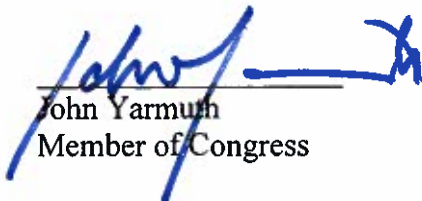
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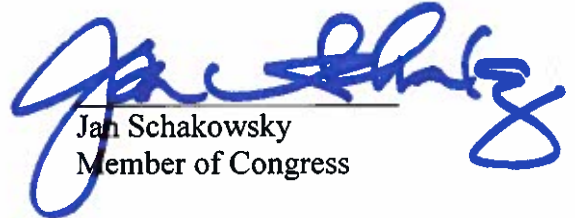
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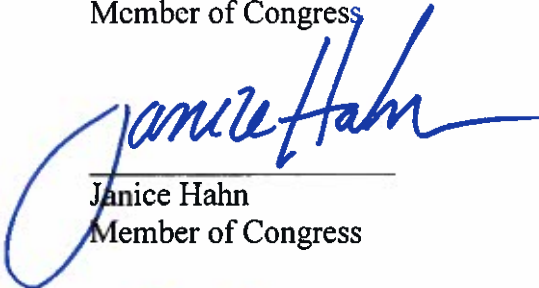
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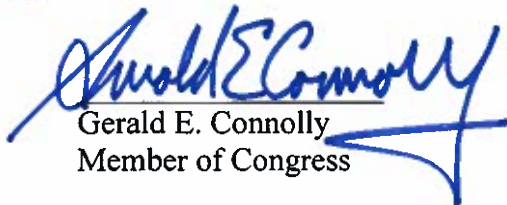
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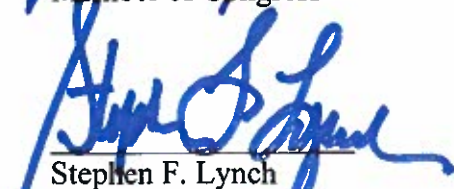


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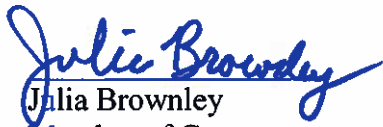

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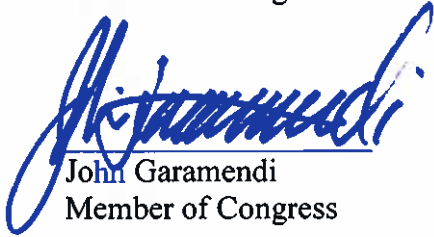

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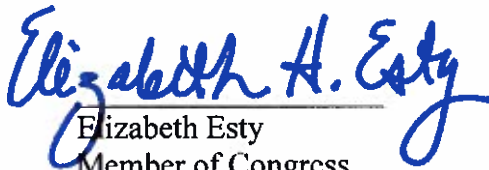
Judy Chu
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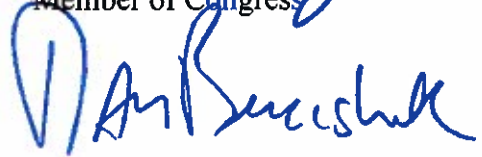
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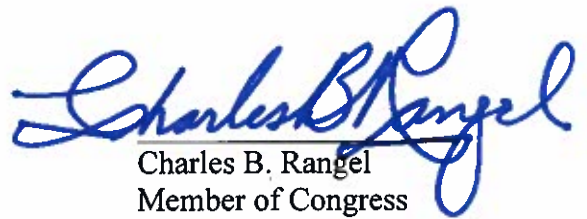
Elizabeth Esty
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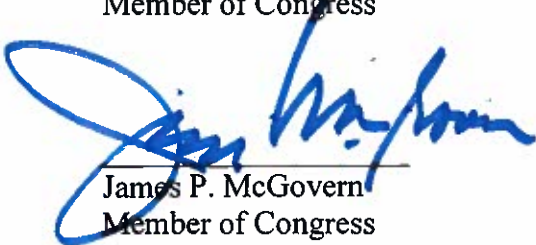
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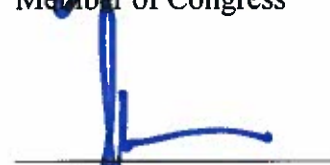
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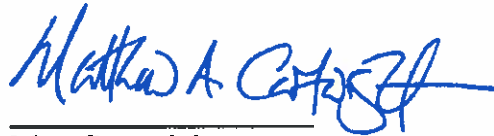
Kyrsten Sinema
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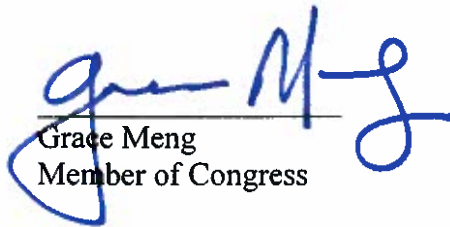
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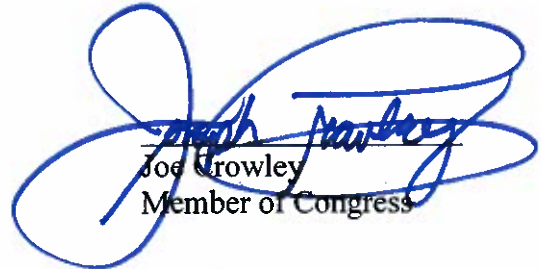
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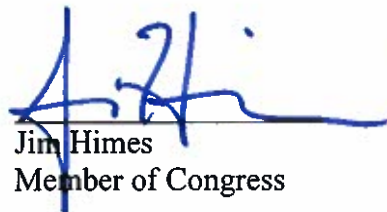
Joe Crowley
Member of Congress



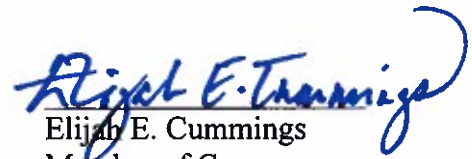
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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



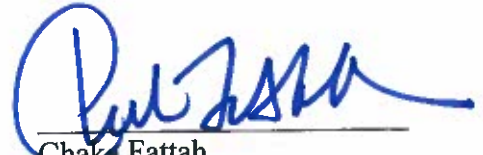
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