

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chair
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
H-405 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman McCollum and Ranking Member Calvert:

As you begin to craft the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Department of Defense (DoD) Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you maintain the current funding level of \$8 million, for the Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Research Program (TSCRCP) at the Department of Defense (DoD).

Tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) is a genetic condition that afflicts an estimated 50,000 Americans, causing tumors in the kidneys, lungs, liver, heart, eyes, skin, and brain. Researchers have linked TSC to seizures, autism spectrum disorder and severe intellectual disability. Research on TSC is also having a significant effect on our understanding of traumatic brain injury and other medical conditions like cancer and diabetes, and research at the TSCRCP is critical to ongoing progress.

From FY 2002 to FY 2021, Congress appropriated an aggregate of \$97 million to the TSCRCP. This well-established program, which has enjoyed bipartisan support from Congress, awards grants competitively to cutting edge research proposals aimed at gaining a better understanding of this complex disorder. Research at the TSCRCP complements – and does not duplicate – ongoing studies on TSC supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Coordination between NIH and DoD is managed by a trans-NIH working group, led by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, with participation from eight separate Institutes, DoD and the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance, representing the patient community.


While this research has led to significant breakthroughs, far more is needed if we hope to find ways to more effectively treat those who suffer with TSC and prevent its occurrence in future generations. In FY 2020, there was only enough research funding available to fund 25.6 percent of the research proposals received by the TSCRCP. Continued funding is required to support clinical studies to validate biomarkers and outcome measurements necessary to accelerate development of new therapeutic agents, understand the biology underlying the wide variation in severity of manifestations among individuals with TSC, attract new researchers into this field of study, identify potential biomarkers that can be applied to newborn screening and develop assays and animal models necessary for translating basic scientific discoveries into clinical treatments.

To date, patient organizations have invested more than \$27.7 million in privately raised resources to the research effort. Ongoing support is necessary to move this research closer to ultimately finding a cure for tuberous sclerosis complex.

We firmly believe that Congress should match these private sector commitments, and we urge you to appropriate \$8 million in necessary funding to continue the TSCRP in FY2022. We are extremely grateful that Congress provided an increase in fiscal year 2021, from \$6 million to \$8 million, and our request for FY 2022 asks the committee to maintain the TSCRP at this existing level.

Sincerely,


Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress


Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress

Member of Congress

List of Signatories:

/s/ Alma S. Adams, Ph.D
/s/ Colin Allred
/s/ Kelly Armstrong
/s/ Cindy Axne
/s/ Nanette Diaz Barragán
/s/ Ami Bera, M.D.
/s/ Jack Bergman
/s/ Donald S. Beyer Jr.
/s/ Stephanie Bice
/s/ Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
/s/ Earl Blumenauer
/s/ Suzanne Bonamici
/s/ Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D
/s/ Anthony G. Brown
/s/ Julia Brownley
/s/ Cheri Bustos
/s/ G. K. Butterfield
/s/ Salud Carbajal
/s/ Tony Cárdenas
/s/ Jerry L. Carl
/s/ Sean Casten
/s/ Joaquin Castro
/s/ Steve Chabot
/s/ Judy Chu
/s/ David N. Cicilline
/s/ Emanuel Cleaver, II
/s/ Michael Cloud
/s/ Steve Cohen
/s/ Gerald E. Connolly
/s/ Joe Courtney
/s/ Angie Craig
/s/ Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
/s/ Jason Crow
/s/ Sharice L. Davids
/s/ Rodney Davis
/s/ Danny K. Davis
/s/ Madeleine Dean
/s/ Peter A. DeFazio
/s/ Diana DeGette
/s/ Suzan DelBene
/s/ Antonio Delgado
/s/ Mark DeSaulnier
/s/ Ted Deutch
/s/ Debbie Dingell
/s/ Lloyd Doggett
/s/ Mike Doyle
/s/ Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
/s/ Veronica Escobar
/s/ Anna Eshoo
/s/ Dwight Evans
/s/ Scott Fitzgerald
/s/ Brian Fitzpatrick
/s/ Lizzie Fletcher
/s/ Bill Foster
/s/ Mike Gallagher
/s/ John Garamendi
/s/ Andrew R. Garbarino
/s/ Carlos A. Gimenez
/s/ Jared Golden
/s/ Jimmy Gomez
/s/ Vicente Gonzalez
/s/ Jenniffer González-Colón
/s/ Josh Gottheimer
/s/ Garret Graves
/s/ Sam Graves
/s/ Al Green
/s/ Glenn Grothman
/s/ Michael Guest
/s/ Alcee L. Hastings
/s/ Jahana Hayes
/s/ Jody Hice
/s/ Brian Higgins
/s/ French Hill
/s/ Jim Himes
/s/ Steven Horsford
/s/ Sheila Jackson Lee
/s/ Sara Jacobs
/s/ Chris Jacobs
/s/ Hakeem Jeffries
/s/ Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
/s/ Eddie Bernice Johnson
/s/ Mondaire Jones
/s/ John Katko
/s/ William R. Keating
/s/ Fred Keller
/s/ Mike Kelly
/s/ Robin L. Kelly
/s/ Trent Kelly
/s/ Daniel T. Kildee
/s/ Young Kim
/s/ Andy Kim
/s/ Ron Kind
/s/ Adam Kinzinger
/s/ Raja Krishnamoorthi
/s/ Darin LaHood
/s/ Doug LaMalfa
/s/ Conor Lamb
/s/ Rick Larsen
/s/ Al Lawson
/s/ Barbara Lee
/s/ Andy Levin
/s/ Ted W. Lieu
/s/ Zoe Lofgren
/s/ Alan Lowenthal
/s/ Frank D. Lucas
/s/ Stephen F. Lynch
/s/ Tom Malinowski
/s/ Nicole Malliotakis
/s/ Kathy Manning
/s/ Thomas Massie
/s/ Doris Matsui
/s/ Lucy McBath
/s/ A. Donald McEachin
/s/ James P. McGovern
/s/ David B. McKinley, P.E.
/s/ Jerry McNeerney
/s/ Peter Meijer
/s/ Carol D. Miller
/s/ Gwen Moore
/s/ Joseph D. Morelle
/s/ Seth Moulton
/s/ Jerrold Nadler
/s/ Grace F. Napolitano
/s/ Joe Neguse
/s/ Marie Newman
/s/ Donald Norcross
/s/ Eleanor Holmes Norton
/s/ Tom O'Halleran
/s/ Ilhan Omar
/s/ Burgess Owens
/s/ Gary Palmer
/s/ Jimmy Panetta

/s/ Chris Pappas
/s/ Bill Pascrell, Je.
/s/ Donald M. Payne, Jr.
/s/ Scott H. Peters
/s/ Dean Phillips
/s/ Chellie Pingree
/s/ Katie Porter
/s/ Bill Posey
/s/ Ayanna Pressley
/s/ Kathleen M. Rice
/s/ Lisa Blunt Rochester
/s/ Mike D. Rogers
/s/ Deborah K. Ross
/s/ Raul Ruiz, M.D.
/s/ Bobby L. Rush
/s/ Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
/s/ Maria Elvira Salazar
/s/ Linda T. Sanchez
/s/ Mary Gay Scanlon
/s/ Jan Schakowsky
/s/ Bradley S. Schneider
/s/ Kurt Schrader
/s/ Kim Schrier, M.D.
/s/ David Scott
/s/ Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
/s/ Pete Sessions
/s/ Terri A. Sewell
/s/ Mikie Sherrill
/s/ Albio Sires
/s/ Elissa Slotkin
/s/ Christopher H. Smith
/s/ Jason Smith
/s/ Lloyd Smucker
/s/ Darren Soto

/s/ Abigail D. Spanberger
/s/ Jackie Speier
/s/ Greg Stanton
/s/ Pete Stauber
/s/ Michelle Steel
/s/ Bryan Steil
/s/ Haley Stevens
/s/ Marilyn Strickland
/s/ Thomas R. Suozzi
/s/ Eric Swalwell
/s/ Mark Takano
/s/ Glenn 'GT' Thompson
/s/ Mike Thompson
/s/ Bennie G. Thompson
/s/ Tom Tiffany
/s/ Rashida Tlaib
/s/ Paul Tonko
/s/ Jeff Van Drew
/s/ Juan Vargas
/s/ Marc Veasey
/s/ Filemon Vela
/s/ Nydia M. Velázquez
/s/ Daniel Webster
/s/ Peter Welch
/s/ Bruce Westerman
/s/ Susan Wild
/s/ Nikema Williams
/s/ Roger Williams
/s/ Joe Wilson
/s/ Frederica S. Wilson
/s/ John Yarmuth
/s/ Don Young
/s/ Lee Zeldin
/s/ Raúl M. Grijalva