May 1, 2024

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

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

As you craft the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Department of Defense (DoD) appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you include $10 million for the Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Research Program (TSCRP) at the Department of Defense (DoD).

Tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) is a genetic condition that affects 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 advancing our understanding of traumatic brain injury and other medical conditions like cancer and diabetes, and research at the TSCRP is critical to ongoing progress.

From FY 2002 to FY 2024, Congress appropriated a total of $121 million to the TSCRP. As approved by the House, the FY 2024 Defense Appropriations Act would have increased funding to $10 million, but the final version of the bill flat-funded the program at $8 million. This well-established program, which has enjoyed bipartisan support from Congress, awards grants competitively to cutting edge research proposals. Research at the TSCRP complements – and does not duplicate – ongoing studies on TSC supported by the National Institutes of Health.

While this research has led to significant breakthroughs, far more is needed. In FY 2023, 12 applications were selected for funding, but an additional 17 applications scored as Outstanding or Excellent were not funded (totaling $8.6 million in unfunded research). Continued funding is required for clinical studies to accelerate the development of new therapeutic agents, understand the biology underlying the wide variation in severity among individuals with TSC, advance gene therapy, identify potential biomarkers that can be applied to newborn screening and develop the tools to translate basic scientific discoveries into clinical treatments. Further federal support is necessary to move this research closer to ultimately finding a cure.
We are extremely grateful for the support you have provided over the years, and we respectfully urge you to appropriate $10 million in necessary funding for the TSCRP in FY2025.

Sincerely,

Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho   
Sablan  
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress

Colin Z. Alfred  
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier  
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William R. Keating  
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Jason Crow  
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Suzanne Bonamici  
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Lori Trahan
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Brittany Pettersen
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Mark Takano
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Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
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Jimmy Gomez
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Debbie Dingell
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Jake Auchincloss
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Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress

Abigail Davis Spanberger  
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Jenniffer González-Colón  
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Donald Norcross  
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Suzan K. DelBene  
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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress

Garret Graves  
Member of Congress

David Scott  
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal
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Lizzie Fletcher
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Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

Haley M. Stevens
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Andrew R. Garbarino
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James P. McGovern
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Mike Kelly
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Madeleine Dean
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Randy Feenstra
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Yvette D. Clarke
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Pete Stauber
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Gwen S. Moore
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Nikki Budzinski
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Mary Gay Scanlon
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Dan Meuser
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Ruben Gallego
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André Carson
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Vicente Gonzalez
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Frank D. Lucas
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Melanie A. Stansbury
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Paul Tonko
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Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Aaron Bean
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress

Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

John S. Duarte
Member of Congress

Susan Wild
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

Max L. Miller
Member of Congress

Mike Levin
Member of Congress
Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress
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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Greg Landsman
Member of Congress