Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

We are writing to support a continuation of funding for Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (TSC) research in the fiscal year 2019 appropriations process, through the Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Research Program (TSCRIP) and existing research initiatives at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

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 has proven to have a significant impact on our understanding of traumatic brain injury and other medical conditions like cancer and diabetes, and research at the TSCRIP is critical to ongoing progress.

The TSCRIP is a well-established program and has enjoyed bipartisan support from Congress. The program awards grants competitively to cutting edge research proposals aimed at gaining a better understanding of this complex disorder. Coordination between NIH and the Department of Defense (DoD) is managed by a trans-NIH working group, led by the National Institutes of Neurological Disorders and Strokes, with participation from eight separate Institutes, DoD and the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance. This working group has achieved exemplary results with breakthroughs in TSC research leading to two FDA-approved indications for a drug that shrinks brain and kidney tumors associated with TSC.

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. 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. Furthermore, this investment is necessary to attract new researchers into
this field of study, and to develop assays and animal models necessary for translating basic scientific discoveries into clinical treatments.

Ongoing support is necessary to move this research closer to ultimately finding a cure for tuberous sclerosis complex, and we urge you to appropriate funding necessary to continue the TSCRP in fiscal year 2019.

Sincerely,

Christopher Murphy  
United States Senator

Johnny Isakson  
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator

Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Dan Sullivan
United States Senator