The Honorable Pete Visclosky  
Chairman  
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  
2205 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Visclosky and Ranking Member Calvert:

We are writing to support a continuation of funding for Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Research Program (TSCRP) at the Department of Defense (DoD) in the fiscal year 2020 Defense Appropriations Act.

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 impact on 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 fiscal years 2002 to 2019, Congress appropriated an aggregate of $83 million to the TSCRP. 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 TSCRP 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 fiscal year 2018, there was only enough research funding available to fund 23.2 percent of the research proposals received by the TSCRP. 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, and develop assays and animal models necessary for translating basic scientific discoveries into clinical treatments.
To date, patient organizations have invested more than $20.7 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 funding necessary to continue the TSCRP in fiscal year 2020.

Sincerely,

Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress

Peter T. King
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress

Bobby Doggett
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Paul Cook
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress

Steve King
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress
Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

Thomas Massie  
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Harley Rouda  
Member of Congress

Susan Wild  
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho
Ted S. Yoho, DVM
Member of Congress

Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

Emmanuel Cleaver II
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Gary Palmer
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

Don Young
Don Young
Member of Congress

Jerry Nadler
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Andy Kim
Member of Congress
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Katie Hill
Member of Congress

Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

Joe Kennedy
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress

Ben McAdams
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress
Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress

Jim Langevin
Member of Congress

Sharice Davids
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress

Colin Allred
Member of Congress

Roger Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

Roger Williams
Member of Congress

Pete Stauber
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

Darrin Soto
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress
Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress

Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress

Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress

Abigail Spanberger  
Member of Congress

Bill Flores  
Member of Congress

Cedric L. Richmond  
Member of Congress

Bobby Scott  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Abby Finkenauer  
Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress

Kendra Horn  
Member of Congress

Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress
Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress

Sean Casten  
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress

Susie Lee  
Member of Congress

Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress

Scott DesJarlais  
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress

Carol D. Miller  
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress

Angie Craig  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress

Joe Cunningham  
Member of Congress
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Conor Lamb
Member of Congress

John B. Larson
Member of Congress

Elaine Luria
Member of Congress

Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

Sylvia Garcia
Member of Congress

Michael Cloud
Member of Congress