



July 26, 2017

Dear Senator,

On behalf of Research!America, the nation's largest nonprofit education and advocacy alliance working to accelerate medical progress and strengthen our nation's public health system, and in support of the men and women who serve our nation's military, I urge you to vote Yes on the Durbin-Blunt amendment to the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

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The Durbin-Blunt amendment neutralizes language that would stifle vital medical research carried out by the Department of Defense (DoD). This research offers desperately needed hope to members of the military and their families, while contributing in profound ways to the health and wellbeing of every American. DoD and its Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) provide essential research into areas of vital national interest, including substance use disorders, infectious diseases, paralysis, PTSD, suicide, and traumatic brain injury.

The Durbin-Blunt amendment would not only protect the kind of DoD research that has led to astounding advances in nerve regeneration and other restorative and life-saving arenas, but would prevent the imposition of new and costly administrative requirements on DOD research programs. No one is served by needless red tape that slows and adds costs to the pursuit of cutting edge treatments and cures.

When we put members of the military in harm's way we also promise to return them to health. And given the sacrifices military families make on the nation's behalf, when we can offer them hope, we should seize that opportunity, not squander it, DoD research is essential to keeping our promise and supporting American patriots, and so is passing the Durbin-Blunt amendment.

We stand ready to work with you to ensure this important amendment passes the Senate. Thank you again for your unwavering determination to support and protect those who have done so much for our country, and for your support of medical progress that benefits these men and women and our nation as a whole.

Sincerely,

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