



July 26, 2017

The Honorable Richard Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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Dear Senator Durbin and Senator Blunt,

I am writing 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. We appreciate your steadfast commitment to the health and well-being of military families, and are grateful for your determination to protect research needed to combat deadly and debilitating health threats. By offering an amendment to 2018 National Defense Authorization Act that neutralizes language that would stifle vital medical research, you have once again demonstrated your commitment to our nation's health and security. We strongly support this important amendment.

We appreciate that the proposed amendment champions medical progress by preventing harmful exclusions to the avenues of research that could be pursued on behalf of military families under the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) and other Department of Defense (DoD) research programs. And importantly, your amendment halts the imposition of new and costly administrative requirements that would reduce the efficiency of CDMRP operations. DoD research has contributed in multi-faceted ways to the health and wellbeing of members of our military and their families. Choking off that resource would squander medical progress that serves these patriots and provides iterative benefits to all Americans.

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,

Mary Woolley
President and CEO

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Cc: Senators Baldwin, Casey, Cochran, Klobuchar, Leahy, Murray, Reed, Warren