

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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Senator John Boozman
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
United States Senate

Senator Jon Ossoff
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
United States Senate

Dear Chair Boozman and Ranking Member Ossoff:

We write to request that the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies support XX in funding for the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) Medical and Prosthetic Research Program in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the VA's medical research program—a century of pioneering discoveries, clinical innovations, and a steadfast commitment to those who have served our nation. Since its founding in 1925, VA research has contributed significantly to medical advancements in areas such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), prosthetics, spinal cord injury, and chronic disease—conditions often underrepresented in broader research portfolios.

Throughout its history, the program has adapted to fit the needs of the veteran population as they returned with different wounds from different conflicts—from Agent Orange during the Vietnam War era, to improvised explosive devices (IEDs) during the post-9/11 wars. Development of prosthetic technologies and rehabilitation tools through VA research has reduced the long-term cost of care for veterans with limb loss, while also helping them return to work and lead more independent lives. Studies funded by VA have led to evidence-based prescribing practices, helping reduce opioid overuse and the associated costs of addiction treatment and complications.

In the past 100 years, the VA medical research program has launched landmark programs such as the Million Veteran Program—one of the largest genetic research programs in the world—and has advanced understanding of diseases like cancer, diabetes, and Alzheimer's while maintaining an exceptionally efficient cost structure.

For every dollar invested in VA research, there is a significant multiplier effect through improved care delivery, reduced long-term health care costs, and fewer hospitalizations. Innovations developed through this program—such as advanced prosthetics and telehealth solutions—have led to improved clinical outcomes and lower ongoing care costs. With an aging veteran population and a new generation of veterans from the post-9/11 conflicts, the demand for cutting-edge, cost-effective treatments continues to rise. Investing in this research today helps reduce future healthcare expenses by preventing complications, improving long-term outcomes, and enhancing veterans' quality of life.

Across the country, VA researchers—many veterans themselves—are dedicated to finding better care and cures for those who risked their lives for our country. They are embedded within VA medical centers, allowing them to work closely with veteran patients to improve clinical practices quickly and efficiently. Combined with strong partnerships with academic medical centers and federal research agencies like the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense, the VA medical research program ensures that every federal dollar is stretched and magnified.

Moreover, VA research generates benefits far beyond the veteran population. Many advances in prosthetics, mental health treatment, and rehabilitation medicine originated within the VA system and now benefit the civilian healthcare sector. Building upon a century of innovations in this program is a strategic investment in medical care and fiscal responsibility.

Strong funding for the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research Program is a worthy investment for our veterans, and all Americans will benefit from the advancements in treatments—and even cures—for numerous conditions. This program helps give veterans and their families hope for the future. It is our duty to honor our promise to care for our veterans with the best care available. We urge the subcommittee to support XX for VA medical research in FY 2026. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

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