

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2005

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young
Chairman
Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Defense
H-149 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Murtha
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Defense
1016 Longworth House
Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Young and Ranking Member Murtha:

We appreciate your past support of biomedical research critical to people suffering from neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and ALS that is being conducted by the Department of Defense's Neurotoxin Exposure Treatment Program (NETRP). We respectfully request \$40 million in funding for the Neurotoxin Exposure Treatment Program (NETRP) in the U.S. Army Military Operational Medicine Research Program under the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command for Fiscal Year 2006.

As you are aware, American troops are routinely exposed to a wide range of chemicals, low-level radiation, and other external stressors and toxins such as jet fuel, radar, sonar, lasers, pesticides, herbicides, and head injury. Scientists believe these exposures increase the risk of developing neurodegenerative conditions, particularly Parkinson's disease, but also Alzheimer's, and ALS. These conditions negatively impact the readiness of American military forces since they all result in the permanent loss of brain and nerve cells.

Thus, the NETRP was established to investigate the causes, diagnosis, and treatments of Parkinson's and other neurodegenerative diseases. Understanding how exposures occur, the incidence of disease afterwards, and how these conditions may be effectively treated, cured, or prevented will allow the Department of Defense (DoD) to better protect military personnel and minimize the risk of future exposures. The scientific findings from biomedical research conducted through the NETRP may provide DoD with innovations in materiel design, avoidance protocols for unnecessary harmful exposures, and neuroprotective drugs to prevent damage in the first place, which will considerably improve military readiness. Furthermore, the early detection of nerve cell loss caused by such toxic exposures may provide DoD with better methods of evaluating warfighter performance and faster ways of detecting potential impairments, which also contribute to greater military preparedness.

However, the military is not the only recipient of the benefits of the NETRP, as any research breakthroughs in prevention, detection, and treatment of neurodegenerative conditions may be immediately applied to civilians-particularly the more than one million Americans with Parkinson's disease and the 60,000 people diagnosed each year.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to provide the DoD peer reviewed NETRP with \$40 million in funding for Fiscal Year 2006. This level of funding is necessary to prevent cuts to

critical NETRP funded research projects being conducted in 22 states. On-going projects include research establishing hereditary links to Parkinson's disease - opening the door to developing new treatments for both hereditary and environmentally induced Parkinson's. This important research is expediting the discovery process, significantly advancing the science of neurology, and enhancing military readiness.

Thank you again for your continued leadership and support for this program essential in the fight to prevent and treat military men and women and all of the heroic Americans who suffer from Parkinson's and other neurological diseases.

Sincerely,



LANE EVANS
Member of Congress



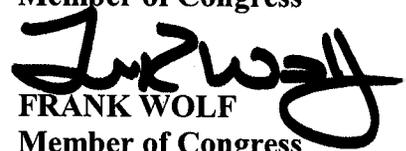
CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress



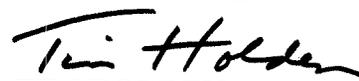
MARK UDALL
Member of Congress



SHERWOOD BOEHLERT
Member of Congress



FRANK WOLF
Member of Congress



TIM HOLDEN
Member of Congress



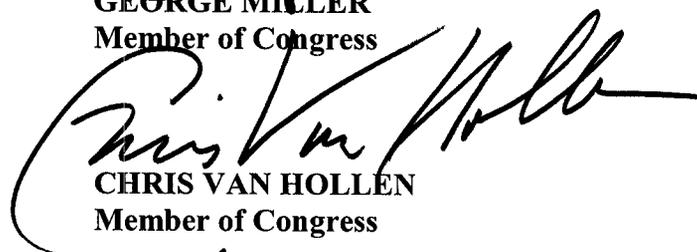
JAMES LEACH
Member of Congress



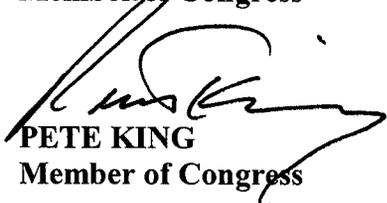
GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress



TRENT FRANKS
Member of Congress



CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
Member of Congress



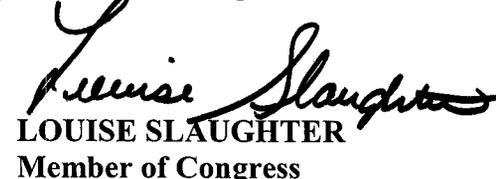
PETE KING
Member of Congress



GENE TAYLOR
Member of Congress



JOHN SPRATT
Member of Congress



LOUISE SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress

JAMES P. McGOVERN
Member of Congress

ROSA DeLAURO
Member of Congress

JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress

RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress

HOWARD BERMAN
Member of Congress

VIC SNYDER
Member of Congress

ELLEN TAUSCHER
Member of Congress

DALE KILDEE
Member of Congress

ROBERT WEXLER
Member of Congress

JULIA CARSON
Member of Congress

JANE HARMAN
Member of Congress

DAVID PRICE
Member of Congress

RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress

GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress

MAJOR OWENS
Member of Congress

STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress

BERNARD SANDERS
Member of Congress

RAÚL GRIJALVA
Member of Congress

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

MAXINE WATERS
Member of Congress

BRAD MILLER
Member of Congress

TOM ALLEN
Member of Congress

SUSAN DAVIS
Member of Congress

LUIS GUTIERREZ
Member of Congress

HENRY WAXMAN
Member of Congress

JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress

BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress

BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress

DAVID WU
Member of Congress

DENNIS MOORE
Member of Congress

JOE BACA
Member of Congress

SHERROD BROWN
Member of Congress

ANNA ESHOO
Member of Congress

EDOLPHUS TOWNS
Member of Congress

ANTHONY WEINER
Member of Congress

LYNN WOOLSEY
Member of Congress

TED STRICKLAND
Member of Congress

JIM McDERMOTT
Member of Congress

TOM UDALL
Member of Congress

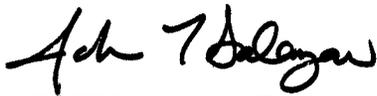
TOM LANTOS
Member of Congress



JIM DAVIS
Member of Congress



DONALD PAYNE
Member of Congress



JOHN SALAZAR
Member of Congress



TIM BISHOP
Member of Congress



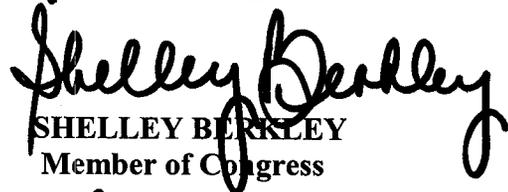
ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress



HEATHER WILSON
Member of Congress



G. K. BUTTERFIELD
Member of Congress



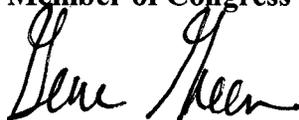
SHELLEY BERKLEY
Member of Congress



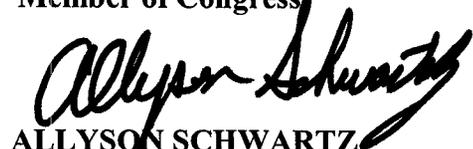
RON KIND
Member of Congress



PATRICK KENNEDY
Member of Congress



GENE GREEN
Member of Congress



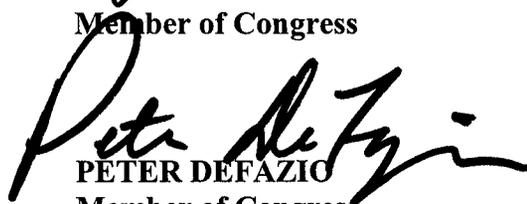
ALLYSON SCHWARTZ
Member of Congress



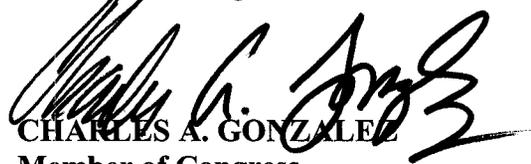
GARY ACKERMAN
Member of Congress



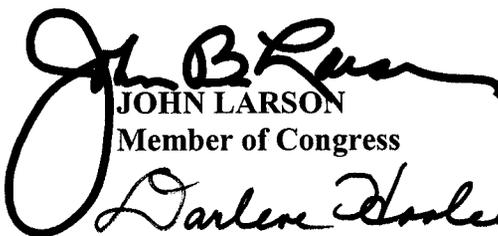
WILLIAM LACY CLAY
Member of Congress



PETER DEFAZIO
Member of Congress



CHARLES A. GONZALEZ
Member of Congress



JOHN LARSON
Member of Congress



JAMES MORAN
Member of Congress



DARLENE HOOLEY
Member of Congress



RUSS CARNAHAN
Member of Congress

Tom Davis

John Hayes
