

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 2011

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

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Defense
1117 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Young and Ranking Member Dicks,

As co-chairs of the Bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Parkinson's Disease, we thank you for your consistent support over the last decade for innovative biomedical research at the Department of Defense Peer-Reviewed Neurotoxin Exposure Treatment Parkinson's Research (NETPR) program. We respectfully request \$25 million in funding for the NETPR program in the U.S. Army Telemedicine & Advanced Technology Research Center under the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command for Fiscal Year 2012.

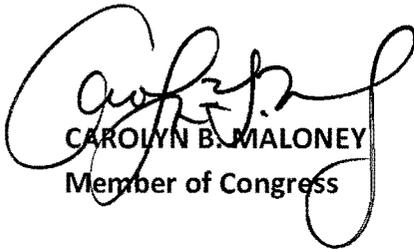
At a time when significant pressure is placed on the warfighter, the NETPR program research identifies the effects of environmental and operational hazards and provides the basis for strategies to sustain and enhance the health and performance of our soldiers. Troops are routinely exposed to a wide range of toxins and other external stressors, such as head trauma, and scientific studies have found that these everyday exposures and risk of injury put our troops at an increased risk of permanent loss of brain and nerve cells, which may result in developing Parkinson's disease. These actions in turn affect the overall readiness of our forces, and understanding how these exposures occur, the incidence of the disease afterwards, and how these conditions may be effectively prevented, treated, or cured, will allow the Department of Defense (DoD) to better protect military personnel.

For over a decade, the national, peer-reviewed NETPR program has been funding forward-looking research that provides the DoD with innovations in material design, avoidance protocols for unnecessary harmful exposures, and neuroprotective drugs to prevent damage in the first place. Every NETPR program grant must have a direct warfighter application, each working to develop ways to maintain and improve the health of our military in training and operational environments.

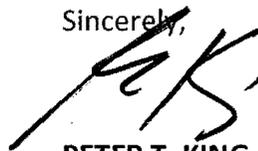
In addition to helping protect our soldiers, NETPR funded research also provides the broader Parkinson's disease community with information on how to combat the second largest neurological disorder in the United States. Research breakthroughs in prevention, detection, and treatment of Parkinson's disease are immediately applicable to the nearly 80,000 veterans

being treated for Parkinson's as well as the more than one million civilians living with the disease.

We understand the great financial pressures that are facing our nation at this time but urge you to support this innovative and successful dual-use research program at the requested \$25 million for Fiscal Year 2012. With our military men and women still at war and the impending retirement of baby boomers at the end of this decade, it is imperative that we find better ways of preventing and treating Parkinson's disease.



CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

Sincerely,

PETER T. KING
Member of Congress



CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
Member of Congress