

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 20, 2012

The Honorable C.W. Young  
Chairman  
Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Young and Ranking Member Dicks:

We respectfully request your support for innovative biomedical research being conducted by 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 2013.

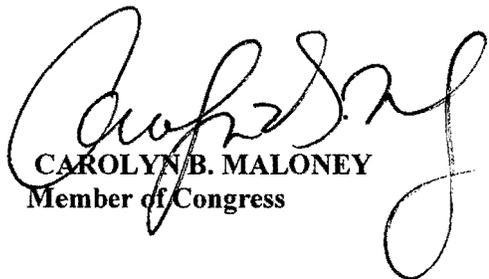
At a time when significant pressure is placed on the warfighter, NETPR program research identifies the effects of environmental and operational hazards and provides the basis for strategies to sustain and enhance the health and performance of our soldiers. Troops are routinely exposed to a wide range of toxins and other external stressors, such as head trauma, that may lead to the development of Parkinson's disease. Understanding how these exposures occur, the incidence of 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 materiel 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 we urge you to support this innovative and successful dual-use research program at the requested \$25 million for Fiscal Year 2013. With our military men and women still at war and facing exposure to environmental and operational hazards, it is imperative that we find better ways of preventing and treating Parkinson's disease.

Sincerely,



CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress



PETER T. KING  
Member of Congress



CHRIS VAN HOLLEN  
Member of Congress