

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1013

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Carter
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
HT-2, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Calvert, Ranking Member McCollum, Chairman Carter, and Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz:

As you develop the Defense, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies; and Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bills, we ask that you prioritize support for endometriosis research in Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26).

Endometriosis, which continues to be a leading cause of infertility for millions of potential mothers, affects approximately 1 in 10 women and girls in the United States. While Congress has begun to shed more light on this debilitating condition, more support is needed. Research shows those affected by endometriosis—many as young as 9 and as old as 70—are at increased risk for numerous comorbidities, including breast, ovarian, lymphoma, melanoma, and other cancers; cardiovascular diseases; autoimmune diseases such as lupus and multiple sclerosis; and premature mortality. Understanding the mechanisms involved in these comorbidities unearths novel insights into the basic mechanisms of diseases such as cancers and cardiovascular diseases, the two most prevalent health conditions killing Americans every year.

Bipartisan efforts are paving the way for significant progress in advocacy, research, and education, resulting in more robust multi-agency investments for innovative and advanced studies to bridge gaps in knowledge and the treatment of endometriosis. The progress facilitated

by our agencies working alongside Congress and the private sector is a testament to what we can achieve together. But the work is far from over.

Increased support is necessary to better understand, diagnose, and speed up ongoing studies to treat this disease. In the last decade, congressionally supported research at the Defense Department (DoD) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) have led the way in using biomarkers as warning systems to evaluate the risk of endometriosis. The NIH, in particular, has committed to launching additional initiatives dedicated to expanding research on biomarker discovery and validation to help improve our ability to prevent, diagnose, and treat conditions that affect women uniquely, including endometriosis. Robust and targeted funding will accelerate our ability to identify new pathways for diagnosis and treatment by continuing to encourage multi-sector collaboration and complimentary research to speed the transfer of knowledge from lab to practice.

Pulling back endometriosis support will make it a challenge to attract expert researchers who can specialize in specific conditions or apply for related research grants. For those reasons, we respectfully ask that you consider the following requests under each of your subcommittees:

Department of Defense Appropriations Act

We were disappointed that the Defense Department did not prioritize endometriosis funding among the select group of research areas for FY25 as part of the Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) after prioritizing it for the prior four fiscal years. To ensure endometriosis is eligible to receive funding in FY26, **we ask that you include the following report language:**

The Committee directs funds provided in the Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) to be used to conduct research in endometriosis. The Committee further encourages DoD to devote additional resources to support targeted research on the role of endocrine-disrupting chemicals in endometriosis, the relationship between endometriosis and cancer, prenatal and epigenetic influences on endometriosis, and the effects of the human microbiome to develop new and innovative treatment methods.

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Act

Even though endometriosis affects millions of families, the disease is not well understood by the public and receives surprisingly low research funding. Historically, the National Institutes for Health (NIH) has dedicated as little as 82 cents to research for every individual with endometriosis in the United States. As such, **we ask that you include the following report language:**

The Committee urges the National Institute for Child and Human Development (NICHD) to continue expanding dedicated research on biomarker discovery and validation to help improve the ability to prevent, diagnose, and treat conditions affecting those with endometriosis. The Committee further encourages NIH to devote additional resources to support targeted research on the role of endocrine-disrupting chemicals in endometriosis, the relationship of endometriosis and cancer, prenatal and epigenetic

influences on the risk for endometriosis, and the role of the human microbiome in developing new and innovative treatment methods.

Military Construction, Veterans' Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act

The demographics of female veterans enrolled in the VA are changing rapidly. While the Department has expanded coverage to include comprehensive health care services, there is a need for more information to truly understand the unique reproductive health conditions and needs of female veterans. As such, **we ask that you include the following report language:**

The Committee directs the Department to ensure its research program adequately addresses the unique needs and concerns of veterans with endometriosis. The Committee further directs the VA to prioritize endometriosis research to expand basic, clinical, and translational research into the mechanics of endometriosis, identify early diagnostic markets, and develop new treatment methods.

We again respectfully urge you to include these requests to advance endometriosis research and ensure millions of women living with this condition are not forgotten. We firmly believe robust congressional support for endometriosis will improve the health and lives of our constituents. Thank you for your ongoing support and consideration.

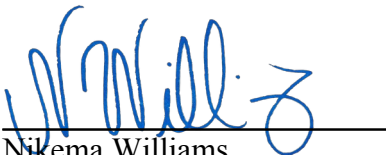
Sincerely,



David Scott
Member of Congress



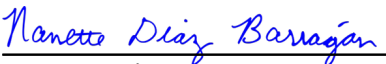
Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



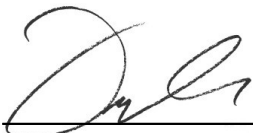
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



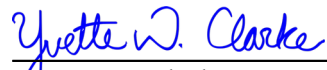
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



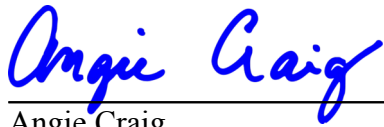
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Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
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Angie Craig
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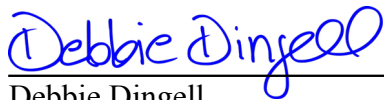
Danny K. Davis
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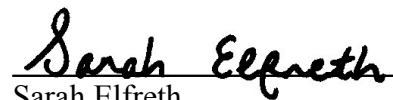
Donald G. Davis
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Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



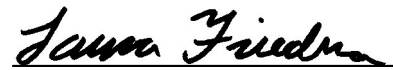
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Laura Friedman
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Josh Gottheimer
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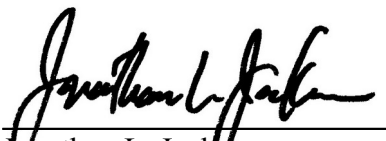
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Val Hoyle
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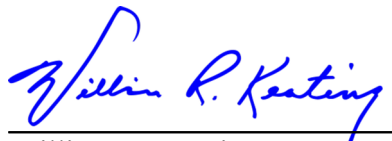
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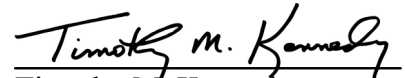
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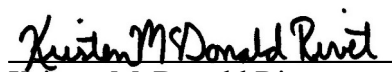
Rick Larsen
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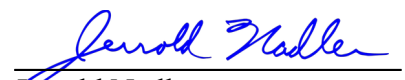
Seth Magaziner
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Lucy McBath
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Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress




Jerrold Nadler
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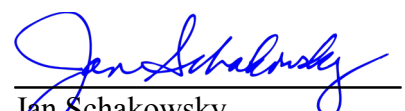
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Ayanna Pressley
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Mary Gay Scanlon
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Jan Schakowsky
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Mikie Sherrill
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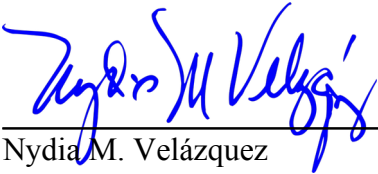
MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



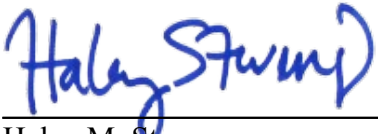
Paul Tonko
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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Frederica S. Wilson
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Haley M. Stevens
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