

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chair  
U.S House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Washington, DC

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Washington, DC

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

On behalf of the nearly one million Americans living with multiple sclerosis (MS), we want to share our appreciation and support that the Multiple Sclerosis Research Program (MSRP) was funded at \$15 million for FY2026. In addition, we were happy to see a funding increase for Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP). In FY2025, Congress drastically cut funding for CDMRP including MSRP. This was devastating to the critical work that MSRP provides to the MS community. We are appreciative of the Committee's prioritization of MSRP, and urge Committee leadership to fund the program at \$22 million in FY2027, a \$7 million increase from FY2026. We also encourage the Committee to include \$1.626 billion for CDMRP, a \$116 million increase over FY2024.

Congressional investment in the MSRP is critical to expediting the development of new and innovative solutions for people with MS and supporting research to target a cure. As the only dedicated funding stream for MS research, the MSRP funds high-risk, high-reward research that will help answer basic biological questions about MS, improve readiness for our nation's warfighters, and improve outcomes and care for all of those living with MS.

MS is an unpredictable disease of the central nervous system, which is typically diagnosed when individuals are between the ages of 20 and 50, during the prime of an individual's life. It is the most common progressive neurological condition affecting young adults. Symptoms vary from person to person and may include disabling fatigue, mobility challenges, cognitive changes, and vision issues. Significant progress is being made to achieve a world free of MS, with early diagnosis and treatment being critical to minimizing disability from MS. There currently is no cure, but investment in research will drive solutions that will bring us closer to a world free of MS.

There are currently 70,000 veterans living with MS in the United States. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) considers MS a presumptive condition, meaning that it is presumed that an individual's MS is caused by military service if it is diagnosed within seven years from an individual's date of discharge. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) provides care for approximately 50,000 veterans with MS per year and approximately half of those have a service connected disability for MS. An MS diagnosis may take several years, and for active-duty service members, this diagnosis often results in a medical military discharge. MS has a higher prevalence in US service members than in the general population and our warfighters are 34 percent more likely to be diagnosed with MS than civilians. Over the past decade, over 2,400 active-duty service members, and reserve and National Guard Service members received a new diagnosis of MS within the Military Health service.

Our service members deserve the breakthroughs in care and treatment that the MSRP provides. **It is essential that Congress provides \$22 million for the MSRP in the FY2027 Defense Appropriations bill to increase the program's funding, as well as fully fund CDMRP at \$1.626 billion.** Congress must work in a bipartisan way to continue federal funding to CDMRP and increase FY27 funding for the program to ensure that our country is prepared to meet current and future public health-related threats and challenges to our national security. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



---

Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



---

Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



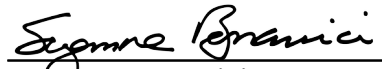
---

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



---

Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



---

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



---

Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



---

Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



---

Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



---

Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



---

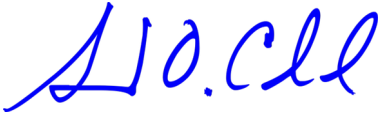
Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



James R. Walkinshaw  
Member of Congress



Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



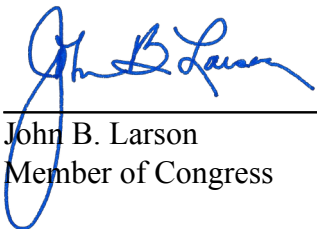
Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



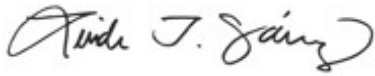
Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



Al Green  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



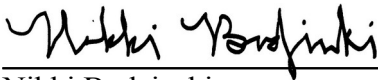
---

Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



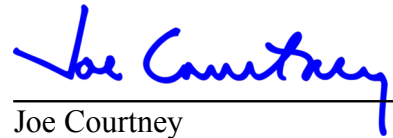
---

Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



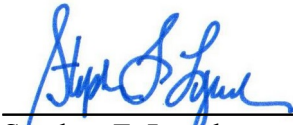
---

Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



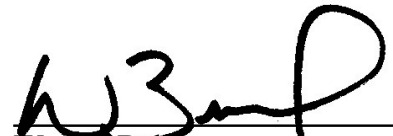
---

Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



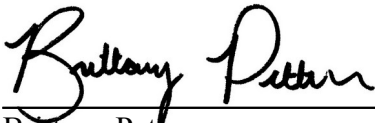
---

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



---

Wesley Bell  
Member of Congress



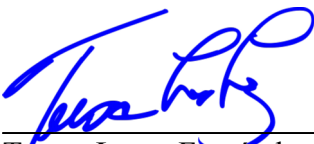
---

Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



---

SETH MOULTON  
Member of Congress



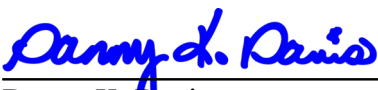
---

Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress



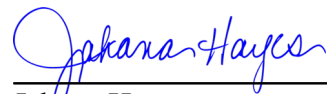
---

Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



---

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



---

Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress




---

Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



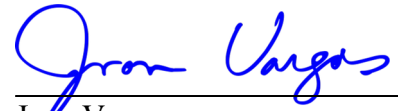
---

Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress



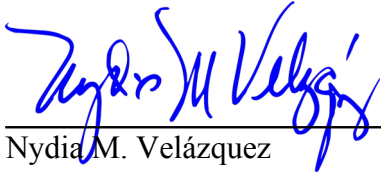
---

Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



---

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



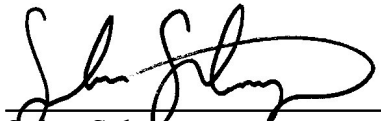
---

Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



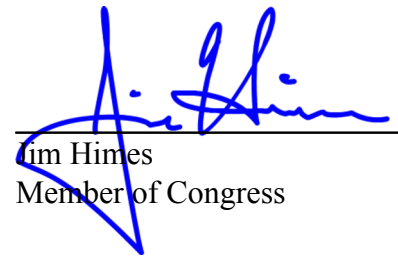
---

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



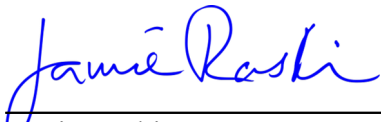
---

Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress



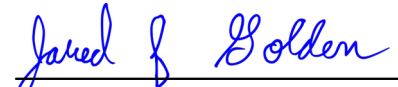
---

Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



---

Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



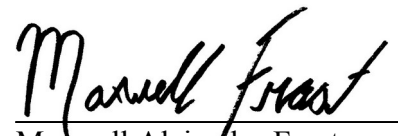
---

Jared Golden  
Member of Congress



---

Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



---

Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Member of Congress



---

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



---

Maxine Dexter, M.D.  
Member of Congress



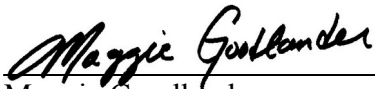
---

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



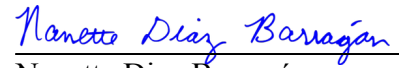
---

Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



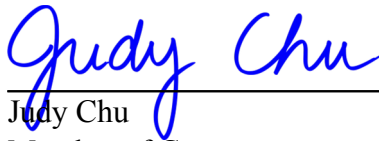
---

Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress



---

Nanette Diaz Barragan  
Member of Congress



---

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



---

Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



---

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



---

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



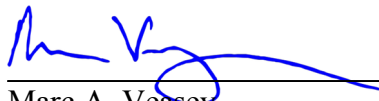
---

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



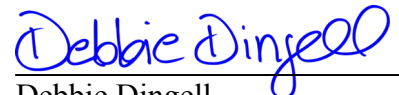
---

Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



---

Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



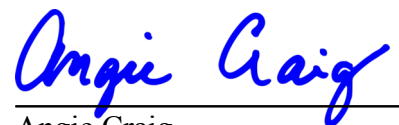
---

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



---

Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



---

Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



---

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



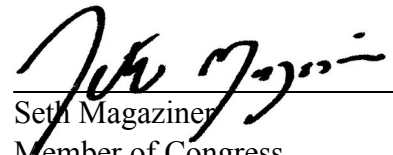
---

James C. Moylan  
Member of Congress




---

Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



---

Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



---

Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



---

Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



---

Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



---

Janelle S. Bynum  
Member of Congress



---

John W. Mannion  
Member of Congress



---

Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress