

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
U.S. House of Representatives
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
U.S. House of Representatives
H-405 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
U.S. House of Representatives
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
U.S. House of Representatives
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Calvert, Ranking Member McCollum, and Chairman Aderholt:

We thank you for your inclusion of funding related to lupus research in Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations law enacted last month. In support of the Congressional Lupus Caucus and on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of Americans living with lupus, we are writing to express our support for critically important lupus programs in the Fiscal Year 2025 Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bills.

We respectfully request the following in the Department of Defense appropriations bill:

\$15 million for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program's (CDMRP) Lupus Research Program. Research has found that those who serve in the military may be at greater risk of developing lupus. Post-traumatic stress disorder, which is experienced by 20 to 30 percent of service members, has been associated with a twofold increase in risk for autoimmune diseases like lupus, and there are likely other risk factors associated with military service. Robust funding for this program will support the development of innovative, high-impact research to advance understanding of lupus and improve outcomes for our active-duty service members, veterans, their families, and other Americans with lupus. Congress has funded the program at \$10 million in fiscal years 2020-2023. However, this allows for funding just a fraction of qualified and compliant applications—just 33.3% in the most recent grant cycle. It is critical that this funding level continues to grow so more of these promising research proposals can be funded.

We respectfully request the following in the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill:

\$12 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Chronic Prevention and Health Promotion, National Lupus Patient Registry. Since 2003, Congress has continued funding for the National Lupus Registry Program, and the program has made important strides in lupus research and education. For example, the program funded research to help determine incidence and prevalence of the disease in the United

States, including a higher incidence of the disease in women of color, and identified risk factors to developing the disease and those that contribute to worse health outcomes.

The program has also developed tools and resources and launched initiatives to help improve care for people with lupus. For example, funding provided by Congress through the Registry led to the development of the first and only online self-management program and efforts to reduce the time it takes to diagnose lupus. This program has played a critical role in improving the health of Americans living with lupus.

\$3 million for the Office of the HHS Secretary, Office of Minority Health (OMH), National Lupus Training, outreach and Clinical Trial Program. Funding provided by Congress has enabled the OMH to identify barriers to minority participation in clinical trials, a significant issue in ensuring the safety and efficacy of treatments for diseases like lupus that are more prevalent in minority populations. The OMH also has identified action plans to increase minority participation in lupus clinical trials and currently is supporting multiple projects throughout the country that are actively working to increase minority participation, particularly Black/African American women. By increasing minority participation, trials are more representative of the actual patient populations, medications are likelier to improve health outcomes and quality of life and those medications are more likely to be covered by insurance and available to the patients who need them.

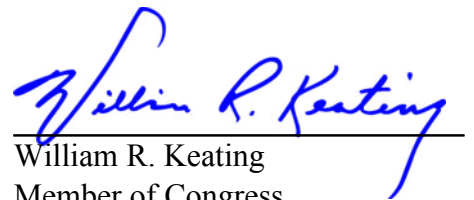
Funding in FY2025 is needed to continue these programs and expand their reach among populations at greatest risk of developing lupus.

Thank you for your support of these initiatives.

Sincerely,



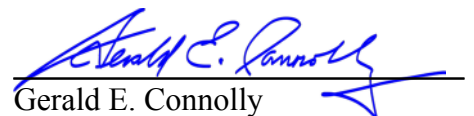
Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



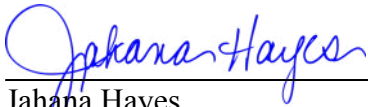
William R. Keating
Member of Congress




Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



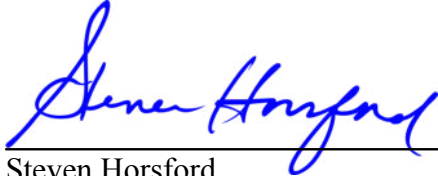
Gerald E. Connolly
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Jahana Hayes
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Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred
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Richard E. Neal
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Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



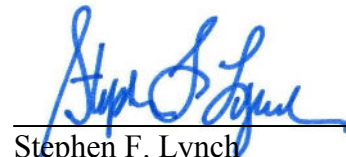
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
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Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



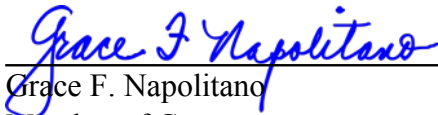
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



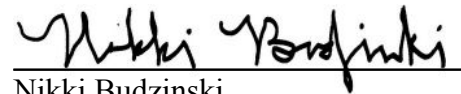
Grace F. Napolitano
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Josh Gottheimer
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J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



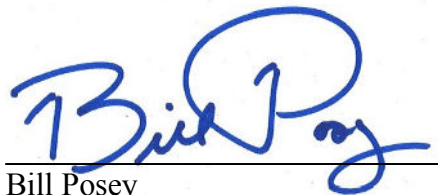
Nikki Budzinski
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Sean Casten
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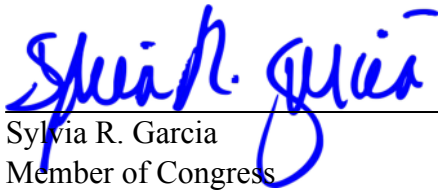
Jim Costa
Member of Congress

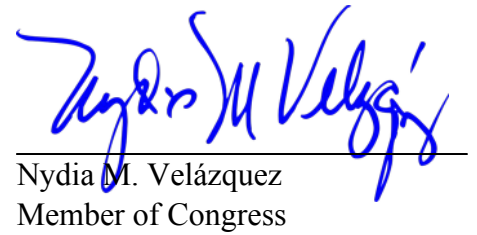


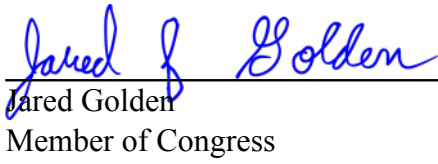
Bill Posey
Member of Congress



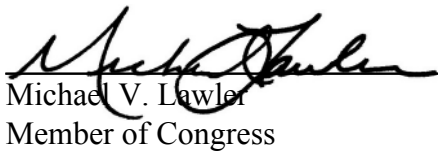
David Scott
Member of Congress

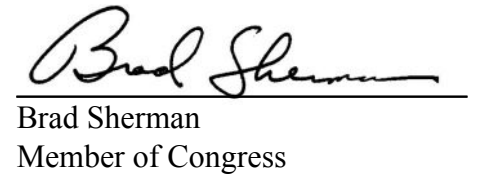

Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

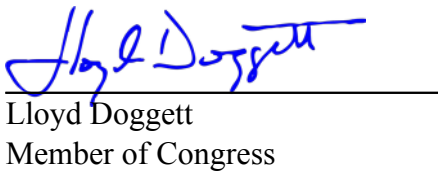

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Jared Golden
Member of Congress

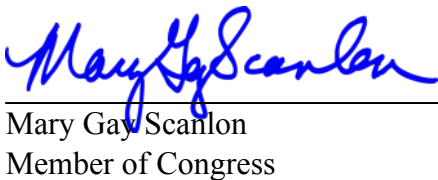

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

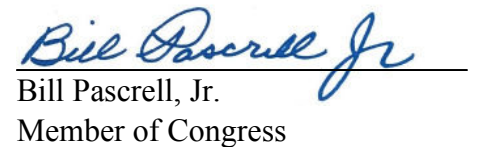

Michael V. Lawler
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Brad Sherman
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Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

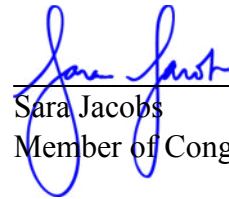

Terri A. Sewell
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Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

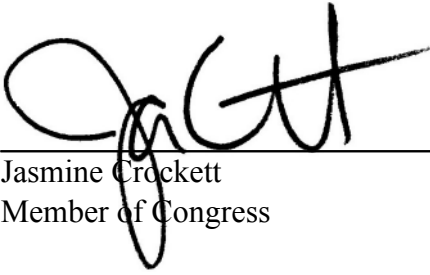

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Member of Congress



Bill Foster
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Jimmy Panetta
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Brandon Williams
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Rashida Tlaib
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Julia Brownley
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Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
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Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



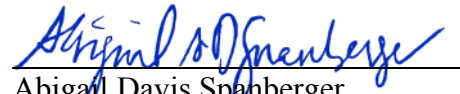
Earl Blumenauer
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Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress




Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



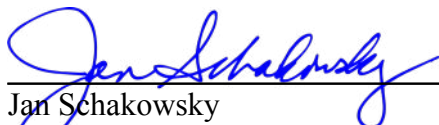
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Lucy McBath
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Diana DeGette
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Jan Schakowsky
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Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
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Elissa Slotkin
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