



Lupus Research Alliance Requests for Congress *Take it to the District—August 2024*

Increase Funding for the Lupus Research Program at the U.S. Department of Defense to \$15 Million

Given the high demand for new research along with the rising numbers of women treated at military health facilities as well as the link between post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and the development of an autoimmune disease, the **Lupus Research Alliance requests that Congress support a funding bill that provides \$15 million for the Lupus Research Program in the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs operated under the Defense Health Program in the FY 2025 Defense Appropriations Bill.** This additional investment is critical for discoveries that can make a difference in patients' ability to be the best version of themselves.

Provide the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with at Least \$51 Billion

Robust support of NIH research promises to save lives and reduce the burden of disease for those affected by lupus and many other diseases, while also having a powerful effect on our economy at the local and national levels. The **Lupus Research Alliance asks that Congress provides at least \$51 billion to NIH in FY 2025** to further the nation's commitment to fighting lupus and other diseases, as well as to continue the effort to offset years of declining funding at the agency.

Support the Lupus Accelerating Breakthroughs Consortium (ABC)

The Lupus Accelerating Breakthroughs Consortium (Lupus ABC) is the first public-private partnership with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that focuses specifically on advancing the development of safer and more effective treatments urgently needed for people with lupus. In collaboration with key stakeholders, Lupus ABC is bringing together people with lupus, federal agencies, medical societies, advocacy groups, industry, academic clinical researchers, and scientists, with the FDA, to overcome the scientific hurdles in drug development that are beyond the capacity of any single entity. **The Lupus Research Alliance requests Members of Congress support the Lupus ABC and the FY25 Ag-FDA report that includes this report language:**

- *Lupus —The Committee is aware of barriers that have long affected the development of therapeutics for lupus, a disease that disproportionately affects women of color. The Committee is pleased that FDA has partnered with researchers, the biopharmaceutical industry, patients, other lupus stakeholders to launch the Lupus Accelerating Breakthroughs Consortium (ABC), a public-private partnership to accelerate development of new therapies, including the potential of engineered cell therapy. The Committee encourages FDA to continue this engagement and provide updates on its efforts to accelerate the development of safer and more effective treatments for people with lupus.*

Join the Congressional Lupus Caucus (House only)

The members of the bipartisan Congressional Lupus Caucus have long been leaders in advocating for Congress to invest robustly in research priorities that are critical to the lupus community. **We ask members of Congress to join the Congressional Lupus Caucus as allies in our fight for a world free of lupus.**

The Lupus Research Alliance is transforming the lives of people affected with lupus by financing the most innovative lupus research in the world. The organization's stringent peer review grant process fosters diverse scientific talent who are driving discovery toward better diagnostics, improved treatments and ultimately a cure for lupus. For more information, contact Matt Dennis (MDennis@dc-crd.com; 703-615-1007) at CRD Associates, on behalf of LRA, or email advocacy@lupusresearch.org.