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March 18, 2016

Chairman Thad Cochran and Ranking Member Richard Durbin
Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee for Defense
United States Congress
Washington, DC 20008, USA

Dear Chairman Cochran and Ranking Member Durbin,

Thank you in advance for your receipt of this joint letter of support for the new \$26 million allocation in the Department of Defense's Congressionally-Directed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) for medical research into the underlying causes of aging-related disease (see attached). **Our groups urge you to please continue your support of the PRMRP through these new funds.**

While we are grateful for the commitment and vision of the National Institutes of Health and National Institute of Aging, one challenge is that most federal and private funding focuses on one disease at a time, whereas a growing body of research reveals connections between the processes of aging and major diseases such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, among others.

The National Committee for Quality Assurance estimates that 75 percent of the \$1.9 trillion spent on all health care in the United States stems from preventable chronic health conditions - but only 1 percent is allocated to protecting health and preventing illness. Millions of Americans like us are counting on Medicare and private healthcare systems to be able to shoulder the weight of a new generation of aging Americans that already outnumber the young. Right now, with a \$9 billion healthcare increase projected by the CDC over the next 15 years alone, the situation is looking grim.

The U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Congress are considering a new research program that would fund research that aims to prevent and treat multiple diseases - specifically, the top killers in our state and nation: cancer, Alzheimer's disease, heart disease, and diabetes. These new programs would open up \$26 million in federal funding for research that just makes sense - if we can target the root causes of multiple diseases, then we can find cures and preventions for Americans of any age, and cut broader health and Medicare costs.

One possible project includes the new TAME/Metformin study, recently called "the 5th most innovative project of 2015" by the Washington Post and the subject of the hit Ron Howard documentary "The Age

of Aging”. TAME--Taming Aging for Metformin--will test the drug Metformin for use as the first pill to prevent the onset of cancers, diabetes, Alzheimer’s, and other aging-related diseases. This project and others will lead to new preventions and medications that Americans of any age can receive, to ensure that the diseases that haunt our nation now might never be a burden for future generations.

By continuing to support the DOD’s Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program and these new funding allocations for research into the underlying causes of aging-related diseases, we can ensure a brighter future for all Americans. Please continue your support of this program through the Appropriations process.

Sincerely,



Edwina Rogers

Major Institutional Signatories

(*Where indicated, signatory sent in their own official letter of support)

Michael Karpf, MD, Executive VP for Health Affairs, University of Kentucky - Kentucky*

Steven Safyer, President/CEO, Montefiore Health System/Albert Einstein College of Medicine - New York

Edward Abraham, MD, Dean, Wake Forest School of Medicine*

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American Federation of Aging Research

Alabama

Lifeguard Transportation
Us TOO Mobile Chapter
Longecity

Alaska

Aleut Care Coordination, LLC
Anchorage Young Cancer Coalition
Laima Assisted Living Home, LLC.
Jewel Lake Assisted Living Home. LLC
Island Care Services
Homer Senior Citizens Inc. (Friendship Terrace)
Living Stone Home Care, LLC-Scenic View

RJP Home Care Services
Aurora Medical Transport LLC
Lilley Lodge Assisted Living Facility

Arizona

Phoenix Care Coordination

California

American Aging Association
International Longevity Alliance
The Men's Cancer Network, Inc
Breast Cancer Emergency Fund
Center for Attitudinal Healing
San Diego County Medical Society Foundation

Illinois

Illinois Prostate Cancer Coalition
Evanston Commission on Aging
Us TOO Greater Quad Cities PC Support Group
Asian Human Services
Metropolitan Family Services
South Side Mission

Kentucky

Hickman County Senior Citizens
Us TOO Louisville
Kentucky CancerLink
Central Church Apartments

Mississippi

Genesis and Light Center Senior Social Club

Central Mississippi Area Agency on Aging

Missouri

Choice Care, LLC

New York

Lifespan.io

Us TOO - Western New York

Commongene

Genspace

Tennessee

Martin Senior Adult Center

Us TOO Nashville MeHarry

Copper Basin Senior Activity Center

Senior Center at Ashland City

Fayetteville-Lincoln County Senior Citizens