

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 20, 2012

Dear Chairman Young and Ranking Member Dicks:

In the United States in 2012 alone approximately 290,000 women and 2,000 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer and more than 40,000 will die of the disease. We still do not know how to prevent breast cancer, how to diagnose it and make a real difference, or how to end it. As a nation, we must continue to show a commitment to changing these statistics and finding answers to these questions.

Fortunately, thanks to your leadership and support, as well as that of the Department of Defense (DOD) Appropriations Subcommittee and the entire Appropriations Committee, the DOD peer-reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) has led the way in the fight against breast cancer since it began in 1992 and now offers true promise in finding the answers necessary to end breast cancer once and for all. **In order to continue its progress towards this goal, we urge you to include level funding for the DOD BCRP in the Department of Defense Appropriations bill for fiscal year (FY) 2013.** It is our understanding this request is fully consistent with the House of Representatives prohibition on earmarks, as stated in House Rule XXI, Clause 9.

As both of you know, the DOD BCRP has established itself across the nation and around the world as a model medical research program. Some of the keys to the DOD peer-reviewed BCRP's success are:

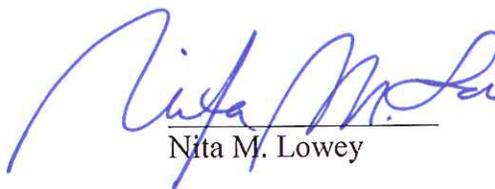
- **It is innovative and unique.** The DOD BCRP has a unique grants structure that allows it to be more flexible than other traditional competitive, peer-reviewed medical research programs. Due to this structure, it is able to fund innovative, high-risk, high-return research and quickly respond to current scientific advances. In addition, the DOD peer-reviewed BCRP is able to fill gaps by focusing on areas of research that are promising but otherwise underfunded. In its reviews of the DOD BCRP, the Institute of Medicine has stated, "the program fills a unique niche among public and private funding sources for cancer research. It is not duplicative of other programs and is a promising vehicle for forging new ideas and scientific breakthroughs in the nation's fight against breast cancer."
- **It is efficient.** Due to the program's flexibility, the Army is able to administer it with unparalleled efficiency and little bureaucracy. This allows 90% of the appropriated funding to go directly to competitive, peer-reviewed research grants awarded only to the best science.
- **It is accountable to the public and transparent.** Educated, trained consumer advocates participate in a two-tiered process where research proposals are reviewed first for scientific quality, and then for programmatic relevance. This consumer involvement

allows for grant funding decisions to be based on the real-life experiences, concerns and needs of both the patient and medical communities. It allows for the perspective of those who have no agenda other than to end breast cancer for everyone. Once funded by the DOD BCRP, each researcher must present their results online on the program's website and at public meetings called "Era of Hope." This transparency allows scientists, consumers and the public to view the progress made in breast cancer research through the DOD BCRP.

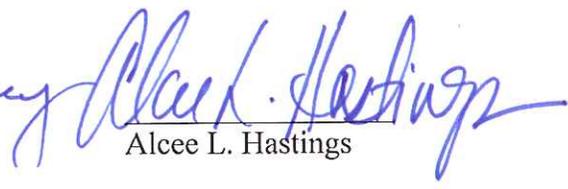
- **It has produced extraordinary results.** From new methods of extracting breast cancer cells at their earliest stages, to unprecedented research into gene/environment interaction and quality of life issues, the DOD BCRP leads the way in generating new approaches to breast cancer prevention and treatment. It has produced fascinating insights into the biology of breast cancer and has directly improved lives through the research it has funded, such as the revolutionary work that led to the development of the innovative drug Herceptin.
- **It benefits all.** As the first of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRPs), the DOD BCRP strives to uphold the vision of the CDMRPs "to find and fund the best research to eradicate diseases and support the war fighter for the benefit of the American public." It does so by directly supporting the over 400,000 women currently serving on active duty, in the Reserves and National Guard, their male counterparts, and their families - as well as the millions living with breast cancer across the nation and around the world.

The DOD BCRP has proven itself a powerful weapon in the fight against breast cancer and continues to bring us closer to finding the answers necessary to end breast cancer once and for all. On behalf of the millions of Americans living with breast cancer, their families, and friends, **we ask you to continue your support for and investment in the DOD peer-reviewed BCRP and include level funding in the Department of Defense Appropriations bill for FY2013.**

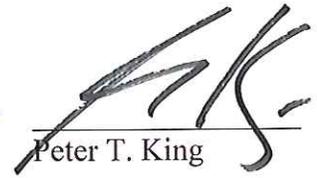
Sincerely,



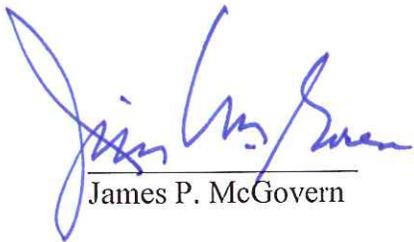
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