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The Honorable C.W. Young  
Chairman  
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
H-405, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky  
Ranking Member  
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Young and Ranking Member Visclosky;

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2014 Defense Appropriations bill, I respectfully request the inclusion of \$30 million for the Spinal Cord Injury Research Program.

On July 19, 2012, the House passed H.R. 5856, the FY13 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, which included funding under the Defense Health Program of \$15 million for the Peer-Reviewed Spinal Cord Research Program. To augment this funding, I offered an amendment that was adopted by voice vote with your support to increase this funding to \$30 million. I again urge that the Spinal Cord Injury Research Program be funded at this level.

Research into spinal cord injury treatment is producing a wealth of discoveries that are making the repair of injured spinal cords an achievable goal. Major improvements in emergency and acute care have improved survival rates but have also increased the numbers of individuals who have to cope with severe, chronic disabilities.

The societal costs in terms of health care, disability payments, and lost income are disproportionately high compared to other medical conditions. According to a study by the Reeve Foundation, approximately 5.6 million people report some form of paralysis, over 1 million of whom are paralyzed as the result of a spinal-cord injury.

Remarkable advancements in treatment are now ripe for further development, including clinical trials, but these next steps will only be achieved if we continue robust investment in the program. I thank you for your previous support of \$30 million for the Spinal Cord Injury Program and urge its continued funding at last year's House level.

Sincerely,

  
Jim Langevin  
Member of Congress