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

The Honorable Pete Visclosky  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Defense  
H-405 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Young and Ranking Member Visclosky:

In the United States in 2013 alone approximately 296,000 women and 2,240 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer and more than 40,000 will die of the disease. While we have made some progress in prevention efforts, more accurate diagnosis, and better treatments, much work remains to be done to end breast cancer once and for all. 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) 2014. 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 are aware, 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:

- **This Program 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 addresses specific needs.** The DOD BCRP directs research to address specific health concerns that are a priority and identifies the specific research areas where funding is to be allocated.
• **It is efficient.** 90 percent of the appropriated funding goes directly to competitive, peer-reviewed research grants awarded 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.** The DOD BCRP has made significant scientific breakthroughs that have contributed to our understanding and treatment of breast cancer. For example, the drug trastuzumab (Herceptin) developed as a result of research funded through the DOD BCRP, can prolong the lives of women with a particularly aggressive type of advanced breast cancer that was previously untreatable.

• **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 FY2014.**

Sincerely,

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

Peter T. King  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Jim Gerlach  
Member of Congress
Bruce Braley  
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

Chris Smith  
Member of Congress

John Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

David Cicilline  
Member of Congress

Sander Levin  
Member of Congress

Richard Hanna  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

David Loebsack  
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell  
Member of Congress

Frank R. Wolf  
Member of Congress

Michael G. Grimm  
Member of Congress

Ron Kind  
Member of Congress
Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

David Scott  
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

Carolyn McCarthy  
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

Jim Langevin  
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress

Steve Israel  
Member of Congress

Elijah Cummings  
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

Tom Petri  
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

Andre Carson  
Member of Congress

Bobby Scott  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress

Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress

Joseph Kennedy III  
Member of Congress

Rick Nolan  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

Elizabeth Esty  
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress

Steve King  
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

Dan Lipinski  
Member of Congress

Anne McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress

Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

Tom Latham  
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Chris Collins  
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

Rush Holt  
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress
Don Young
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Michael Michaud
Member of Congress

Tim Walz
Member of Congress

Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress

Gary C. Peters
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

Nick J. Rahall III
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

John Tierney
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Dan Kildee
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Michael Capuano
Member of Congress
Leonard Lance
Member of Congress

Ron Barber
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

Henry Heck
Member of Congress

Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress

George Miller
Member of Congress

William Keating
Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress

Ami Bera
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress
Eric M. Swalwell  
Member of Congress

Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Eric Paulsen  
Member of Congress

Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress

Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

Blake Farenthold  
Member of Congress

Patrick E. Murphy  
Member of Congress
Scott Peters
Member of Congress