

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2019

The Honorable Pete Visclosky
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Visclosky and Ranking Member Calvert:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Defense Appropriations bill, we respectfully request the creation of a Polycystic Kidney Disease Research Program (PKDRP) within the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP), funded at \$20,000,000.

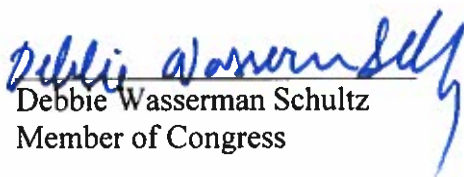
Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) is a genetic disease affecting roughly 1 in every 550 individuals, meaning thousands of service members and potentially half a million Americans impacted. PKD causes cysts to grow uncontrolled in the kidneys and can lead to kidney failure. There are few treatments and no cure; when kidney failure occurs dialysis or transplant are the only options.

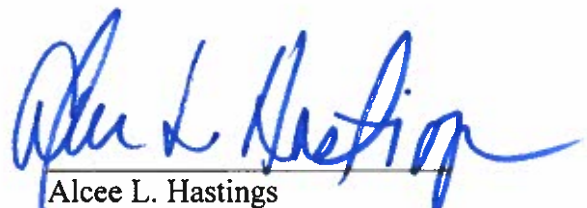
PKD is mostly asymptomatic until mid-adulthood. At that point, patients' kidneys develop cysts and can grow to up to 15 pounds each. Cysts can rupture, causing significant pain. Because of the disease's late onset, service members encounter these problems only after Department of Defense has made significant investments in their training and support. Unfortunately, when a service member begins experiencing the symptoms of PKD, they often lose their ability to perform their military duties.

PKD research has been previously funded through the Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Programs (PRMRP) within CDMRP, but a dedicated source of funding is essential to ensure steady progress toward developing treatments and a cure. The potential benefits to members of our military, and to the general public, are significant.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.


Sincerely,


Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress


Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

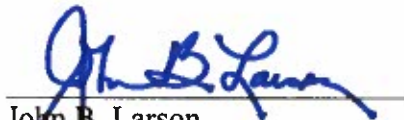

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Member of Congress


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Member of Congress


Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress



Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress


John B. Larson
Member of Congress

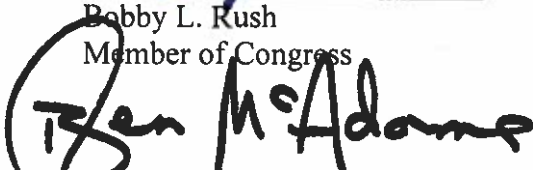

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Member of Congress


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Member of Congress


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