

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
H-405 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Visclosky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky:

As you prepare the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Defense Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you continue to include pediatric brain tumors as an eligible category for funding under the Peer Review Cancer Research Program (PRCRP).

Since FY 2009, the Peer Review Cancer Research Program, part of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program administered by the Department of Defense, has supported innovative research in cancers specifically designated by Congress as relevant to military service members and their families. From FY 2009 to FY 2014, pediatric brain tumor research was included in the list of categories eligible for PRCRP funding. After it was inadvertently dropped from the list of eligible categories in 2015, we were pleased to work with you to restore pediatric brain tumors as an eligible category in FY 2016, and we ask for its continued inclusion under the PRCRP in FY 2017.

Currently, there is no cure for pediatric brain tumors. Of the treatments available, few are able to extend survival for aggressive brain tumors in children. Malignant brain tumors are the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in children under 14 years old. In cases where treatment is available, long-term adverse effects that forever alter the course of the child's life are the norm.

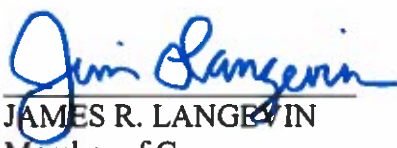
Funding through PRCRP can have a profound and positive effect on the development of new treatments and ultimately potential cures for a population with no current standard of care and dismal survival rates. Program funds from PRCRP have gone to vital research at cancer centers nationwide and resulted in research advancements to develop the pre-requisites for clinical research such as pre-clinical drug testing, and better understanding of key pediatric brain tumor mutations.

While Congress faces many difficult funding decisions in this year's appropriations process, there is no cost associated with maintaining pediatric brain tumor research as an eligible research category under the PRCRP. We hope you will once again support continued research into pediatric brain tumors in the FY 2017 Defense Appropriation bill. Together, we can give children a greater chance to combat this disease. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,



MICHAEL T. MCCAUL
Member of Congress



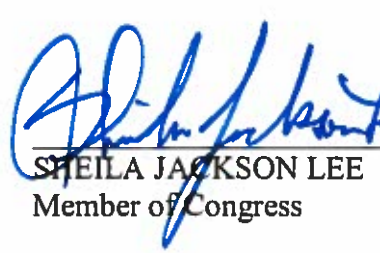
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Member of Congress



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CHAKA FATTAH
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SHEILA JACKSON LEE
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