

November 24, 2025

Senator Susan Collins
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patty Murray
Vice Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Tom Cole
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Collins, Vice Chairman Murray, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The community of organizations representing patients, survivors, and families of kidney, prostate, and bladder cancers, as well as the physicians who treat them, is grateful for your continued support of medical research to improve diagnosis and treatment of these deadly diseases. As you negotiate final Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations bills, we urge you to allocate the highest possible funding levels for kidney, prostate, and bladder cancer research programs within the Department of Defense and National Institutes of Health.

As you are aware, it is well-established that military personnel and veterans have an increased risk of kidney, prostate, and bladder cancers versus the general population due to exposure to toxins. The causes for this increased risk include both chemical contaminants in drinking water and military-grade products, as well as airborne toxins from burn pits and other environmental contamination. It is our collective responsibility to invest in research that can help spur new discoveries in diagnosing, treating, and finding a cure for these deadly diseases affecting military personnel, veterans, and the general public.

That is why we urge you to allocate:

- **\$15 million for the Kidney Cancer Research Program (KCRP)** within the Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP), and fully restore overall CDMRP funding which was cut from \$1.5 billion to \$650 million (57 percent) in the full-year FY2025 continuing resolution;
- **\$75 million for the Prostate Cancer Research Program (PCRP)** within the CDMRP; and
- **\$180 million for the Peer-Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP)**, with language specifically making bladder cancer eligible for PRCRP funding.

We also commend the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations for advancing Labor, HHS, and Education bills that reject drastic proposed cuts to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We are grateful for each of your continued support for NIH and its institutes and centers, the crown jewel of American scientific research and discovery. As you reconcile House and Senate versions of the Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, we urge you to allocate:

- **\$7.374 billion for the National Cancer Institute (NCI); and**

- **\$2.48 billion for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK).**

We are grateful for your ongoing leadership and for your consideration of these requests. Together we can ensure continued progress in research that will drastically improve the health and quality of life of military personnel, veterans, their families, and all Americans. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Vanessa Cramer at vcramer@auanet.org.

Sincerely,

Active Surveillance Patients International
Alliance for Aging Research
American Urological Association (AUA)
Association for Pelvic Organ Prolapse Support
Association for the Bladder Exstrophy Community
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN)
CancerCare
Caregiver Action Network
Interstitial Cystitis Association (ICA)
Joey's Wings Foundation
Judy Nicholson Kidney Cancer Foundation (JNF)
KCCure
Kidney Cancer Association
Live UTI Free Limited
Men's health Network
National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer Coalitions
National Association For Continence
National Kidney Foundation
Patient Empowerment Network
Prostate Cancer Life Enrichment Network
Prostate Conditions Education Council
Prostate Health Education Network, Inc.
Sexual Medicine Society of North America
Society of Urologic Oncology (SUO)
The Endometriosis Summit
The University of Illinois Chicago
Triage Cancer
VHL Alliance
Your Prostate Cancer.help, Inc
ZERO Prostate Cancer