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June 7, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Vice Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
122 Senate Dirksen Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
115 Senate Dirksen Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

On behalf of GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer, whose mission is transforming survivorship by saving, extending and improving the lives of those vulnerable, at risk and diagnosed with lung cancer, I am writing to urge you to support \$60 Million for the Lung Cancer Research Program, as requested by your constituents.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in every state nationwide, claiming more lives each year than the most common cancers combined, but receives the least amount of federal research dollars. With your act of support, we can change this equation and increase lung cancer research funding in Fiscal Year 2023.

As you may know, the Lung Cancer Research Program (LCRP) positively affects the military mission readiness by protecting the men and women who serve in our armed forces, military families, and veterans. Further, the defense health research programs demonstrate responsible government stewardship of taxpayer dollars and benefit the general patient population and our nation's economy.

This year alone, an estimated 236,740 new cases of lung cancer are expected, and an estimated 130,180 lives will be lost to the disease. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) estimates that 900,000 veterans are at risk for lung cancer due to many factors affecting particularly those deployed. The Peer-Reviewed LCRP is a stand-alone program that looks at the pathology of how lung cancer develops, how to treat it, and prevent its recurrence and/or metastasis. The LCRP has limited research grant opportunities because it is flat funded at the original FY09 level. Over the 13-year history, the LCRP has had fluctuations that led to funding cuts, which severely limited investments in research. In FY21, the LCRP was unable to fund 70% of research proposals rated excellent by science reviewers, resulting in missed opportunities to advance critically needed novel treatments to fight lung cancer. An increase in funding is particularly vital this year to fund more research grants and to mitigate the impact of the recent spike of inflation on the purchasing power of individual CDMRP programs, particularly those programs like the LCRP that have been flat funded and underfunded for many years.

In support of our ask for increased research funding, Senator Reed, Inhofe and Collins led a Dear Colleague Letter that was signed by 18 Senators and submitted to the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. We support their letter and urge you to consider it as you work to appropriate the highest level of funding for the LCRP.

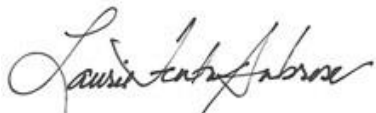
Lastly, while we recognize the continuing challenges to move appropriations bills through the "regular order" process with so many demanding issues before Congress, we encourage timely enactment of the FY 2023 Appropriations Act, to ensure continuity in the defense and health research programs.

Empower Everyone.  
Ignore No One.  
[go2foundation.org](https://go2foundation.org)

General: 202.463.2080 **DC**  
650.598.2857 **CA**  
HelpLine: 1.800.298.2436

Thank you for your consideration of these requests and for your leadership on the Appropriations Committees. If you have any questions or require more information, please contact Elridge Proctor, Senior Director, Government Affairs at GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer (202-669-5547, [Eproctor@go2foundation.org](mailto:Eproctor@go2foundation.org)).

With sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Laurie Fenton Ambrose". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laurie" being the most prominent.

Laurie Fenton Ambrose  
Co-Founder, President & CEO  
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer