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November 20, 2020

The Honorable Peter Visclosky
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Defense
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Defense
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear: Chairman Visclosky, Ranking Member Calvert, Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Shelby, and Ranking Member Durbin and Vice Chair Leahy:

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'm writing to ask you to support \$20M for the Lung Cancer Research Program, as requested by your constituents and supported by House Representatives Boyle and Rutherford in their [FY21 Dear Colleague Letter](#) to the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee.

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go2foundation.org

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

As you work to negotiate the differences in the FY 2021 Defense Appropriations Bills, it is essential to ensure the continuation of pre-pandemic prioritization of research programs. **We specifically request that the Lung Cancer Research Program (LCRP) be funded at \$20 million, as passed in the House FY21 Defense Appropriation bill.** It is critical to the tens of millions of Americans impacted that the Senate agree to the House provision in order to maintain this historic and life-saving, one-of-a-kind, lung cancer research program.

We are concerned that once the COVID-19 emergency declaration ends, we will find that patients with lung cancer will experience poorer health outcomes such as increased morbidity and mortality from delayed diagnoses and treatment during the outbreak. Assuring that strong research continues will help mitigate these avoidable outcomes.

As you know, the LCRP impacts the military mission readiness by protecting the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces, military families, and veterans. The Peer-Reviewed LCRP is a stand-alone 11-year-old program that looks at the pathology of how lung cancer develops, how to treat it, and prevent its recurrence and/or metastasis. People with cancer, especially lung cancer, are at the highest risk for developing a more serious form of infection from the coronavirus. Fighting the uncertainties of lung cancer is already terrifying given the low survival rate, but combined with COVID-19 it is unbearable for patients with lung cancer. The mission to stop or slow down this deadly disease has never been more critical than right now!

We urge you to take on the House's position of a stand-alone Lung Cancer Research Program (LCRP) funded at \$20 million in the final conference bill and to retain the report language included in the LHHS Appropriations Bill that requires CDC to incorporate lung cancer screening awareness and referral into their State quitline strategies that are part of their core National Tobacco Control Program.

Furthermore, to give your constituents and the American public peace of mind during this holiday season, we encourage timely enactment of the FY21 Defense Appropriations Act to maintain continuity in investment in important programs that ensure that our nation is prepared for future pandemics and other public health challenges that threaten our military populations, their families, veterans, and the general civilian population.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests and your leadership at this critical time. Please contact my staff member, Elridge Proctor, Senior Director, Government Affairs at 202-669-5547 or email Eproctor@go2foundation.org with any questions or information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie Fenton Ambrose". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

cc: LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, House Chairwoman

The Honorable Tom Cole, House Ranking Member

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Senate Chairman

The Honorable Patty Murray, Senate Ranking Member

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