

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 17, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
122 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
115 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran and Ranking Member Durbin:

Thank you for your leadership on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. We are writing to urge you to again include focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS) as a condition eligible for study in the Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program in the Fiscal Year 2017 Defense Appropriations bill.

FSGS is a rare and devastating kidney disease that is a leading cause of end-stage renal disease (ESRD). Nearly 30,000 veterans suffer from ESRD, and an additional 3,000 veterans are expected to reach ESRD each year with significant health disparities among African Americans due to variants of the APOL1 gene. In addition, researchers suggest there are new opportunities for investigating FSGS in the military population with respect to environmental exposures. More needs to be done to improve our understanding of the impact of FSGS among our military personnel and veterans.


Given the significant impact of ESRD among veterans and that FSGS is a leading cause of ESRD caused by primary glomerular disease, we respectfully request that the Committee includes "focal segmental glomerulosclerosis" in the Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. It is our belief that your support could lead to important discoveries that will help those battling this devastating disease.

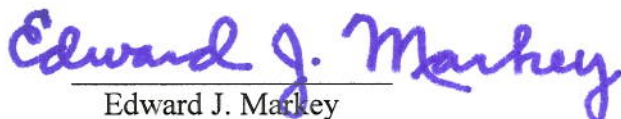
Sincerely,



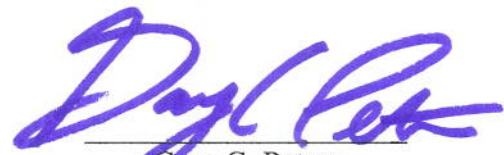
Debbie Stabenow



Charles E. Schumer



Edward J. Markey



Gary C. Peters