FOVA
FRIENDS OF VA MEDICAL CARE AND HEALTH RESEARCH

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Majority Leader Thune, Democratic Leader Schumer, Chair Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Collins, and Vice Chair Murray:

On behalf of the 75 undersigned members of the Friends of VA Medical Care and Health Research (FOVA), a national coalition focused on ensuring America's veterans have access to high-quality, evidence-based health care informed by robust federal research enterprise, thank you for your leadership in advancing medical research taking place at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and we urge you to work in a bipartisan manner to finalize (FY) 2027 funding for the VA's Medical and Prosthetic Research Program and other key funding priorities by the end of the calendar year.

FOVA's members include national academic, medical, and scientific societies; voluntary health and patient advocacy organizations; research institutions; and veterans-focused associations, and we are grateful that the Congress and the President worked to avoid a government shutdown and pass short-term funding legislation that allows medical research that improves the health of veterans and all Americans to continue at least until Dec. 11.

The VA Office of Research and Development and its dedicated staff play a key role in advancing the health and care of veterans and are uniquely positioned to lead innovations that benefit both veterans and the broader American health care system. As part of the largest integrated health care system in the United States, VA Research and Development has unparalleled access to longitudinal clinical data and patient populations that enable them to study the causes, prevention, and treatment of conditions that disproportionately affect servicemembers and veterans. Sustained and predictable funding for VA's Medical and Prosthetic Research program

saves veterans' lives and ensures the continuity of critical studies on cancer, opioid addiction, prosthetic technologies, suicide prevention, toxic exposures, among other research priorities.

The VA research stakeholder community is grateful for the sustained funding provided in FY 2025 and FY 2026. However, the VA research ecosystem has faced significant uncertainty as challenges remain around the ability to recruit and retain skilled researchers and support staff, as well as challenges in maintaining critical partnerships with nonprofit veterans' research and education foundations and academic affiliates. These challenges risk undermining ongoing studies and weakening the research infrastructure that advances veteran health.

We are also appreciative that Congress has expressed concern over the Office of Management and Budget's (OMBs) proposed revisions to the Uniform Guidance for Federal Financial Assistance, voting overwhelming in both chambers to approve the continuing resolution that included legislative language temporarily blocking the implementation of the proposed rule. The proposed rule would affect the continuity of research awards, merit-based funding decisions, and scientific collaboration which will add another layer of uncertainty into an already strained research environment. As Congress works to finalize FY 2027 appropriations, we urge the inclusion of a permanent pause on OMB's proposed revisions to the Uniform Guidance. We also urge Congress to be aware that at least seven federal agencies have advanced new agency-wide guidance that contains in whole or part the OMBs proposed rule, ignoring the pause that the Congressional Continuing Resolution put in place. These agency-wide changes are going into effect this fall, unless halted, and result in the same harms that concerned both the American public and Congress; they should also be halted.

For these reasons, we urge Congress to continue its longstanding bipartisan commitment to VA research and provide robust, sustained, and predictable funding growth for the Medical and Prosthetic Research Program in FY 2027. Continued investment, paired with policies that promote stability across the VA research enterprise, is critical to delivering on VA's mission to improve veterans' health.

Sincerely,

Academy of Physicians in Clinical Research
AcademyHealth
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
Alliance for Aging Research
ALS Association
American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
American Brain Coalition
American College of Physicians
American Epilepsy Society
American Gastroenterological Association
American Geriatrics Society

American Heart Association
American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association
American Parkinson Disease Association (APDA)
American Physiological Society
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association Services, Inc. (APASI)
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Neurorehabilitation
American Thoracic Society
Arthritis Foundation
Association for Clinical and Translational Science
Association of Academic Leaders of Neurology (formerly AUPN)
Association of Academic Physiatrists
Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of VA Hematology/Oncology
Caregiver Action Network
Clinical Research Forum
Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science
Community Liver Alliance
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Elizabeth Dole Foundation
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
Good Days
Head for the Cure
Interstitial Cystitis Association
Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, State University of New York (SUNY)
LUNGevity Foundation
Lymphatic Education & Research Network
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
Mission MSA
National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR)
National Association of VA Physicians and Dentists
National Association of Veterans' Research and Education Foundations (NAVREF)
The National Pancreas Foundation
National Scleroderma Foundation
NCODA

NFFE-IAM Local 1
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA)
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Prevent Blindness
Project Sleep
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
RESNA
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation
Sleep Research Society
Society for Neuroscience
UMass Chan Medical School
University at Buffalo (UB)
University of California, San Francisco
University of Cincinnati
US HAEA
Veterans Healthcare Policy Institute
Voices Against Brain Cancer
wAIHA Warriors
ZERO Prostate Cancer

cc: Carter, Wasserman Schultz, Boozman, Ossoff