**Support Military Funding for Traumatic Brain Injury**

Dear Colleague:

We urge you to join us in sending the attached letter to the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations requesting funding for programs for Department of Defense traumatic brain injury (TBI) programs in the Fiscal Year 2019 Defense Appropriations Bill.

TBI continues to be the signature injury among our nation’s service members returning from theater. More than 375,000 service members have been diagnosed with mild TBI since 2000. TBI is a complex condition that requires comprehensive, specialized care. The Department of Defense has made significant strides in improving both in-theater and post-incident assessment and diagnosis, but still more needs to be done in evaluating troops’ ability to return to duty. Intensive and innovative rehabilitation care is also needed for those sustaining severe TBIs with varying levels of disorders of consciousness.

The Congressionally-Directed Medical Research Program’s Psychological Health and TBI Research Program funds research to prevent, mitigate, and treat the effects of TBI and other psychological health conditions. The Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center has coordinated care for our service members from the battlefield to the community and has engaged in a wide range of TBI research to improve state of the art medical treatment and rehabilitation. Additionally, the National Intrepid Center of Excellence is responsible for treating military personnel diagnosed with TBI and/or Psychological Health.

If you have any questions or would like to sign on, please contact Sarah Reingold in Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.’s office at sarah.reingold@mail.house.gov or Ethan Abner in Congressman Tom Rooney’s office at ethan.abner@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

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Bill Pascrell, Jr. Thomas J. Rooney

Member of Congress Member of Congress