



March 21, 2022

The Honorable Jon Tester  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Tester, Chairwoman McCollum, Ranking Member Shelby, and Ranking Member Calvert,

Thank you for your leadership on medical research and patient care issues. I write you today on behalf of the Sleep Research Society (SRS) and broader sleep research stakeholder community to ask that you ensure “sleep disorders and restriction” are once again included on the eligible conditions list within the Committee Report accompanying the Senate’s FY 2023 Defense Appropriations Bill to facilitate further study through the Department of Defense Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP).

The Sleep Research Society (SRS) was established in 1961 by a group of scientists who shared a common goal to foster scientific investigations on all aspects of sleep and sleep disorders. Since that time, SRS has grown into a professional society comprising over 1,300 researchers nationwide. From promising trainees to accomplished senior level investigators, sleep research has expanded into areas such as psychology, neuroanatomy, pharmacology, cardiology, immunology, metabolism, genomics, and healthy living. SRS recognizes the importance of educating the public about the connection between sleep and health outcomes. SRS promotes training and education in sleep research, public awareness, and evidence-based policy, in addition to hosting forums for the exchange of scientific knowledge pertaining to sleep and circadian rhythms.

Since the program was established, Congress has listed “sleep disorders and restriction” as conditions eligible for study through the PRMRP in recognition of the fundamental impact on military and public health. This opportunity has been tremendously important for the community and significantly advanced our scientific understanding in the areas of readiness, fatigue, sleep disorders, and PTSD. Through the PRMRP, the military has become a leading facilitator of sleep research, which is often coordinated with the efforts of the National Institutes of Health through the National Center on Sleep Disorders Research.

On behalf of the SRS and the broader sleep disorders community, thank you for your time and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "H. Craig Heller".

H. Craig Heller, PhD  
President, Sleep Research Society