

## **!!ACTION ALERT!!**

***Contact the office of your Senator serving on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and ask that they continue to support*** the inclusion of “sleep disorders” as conditions eligible for study through the Department of Defense Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program during the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 appropriations process.

### **Background**

Each year, the United States Senate crafts an annual Department of Defense (DOD) appropriations bill, which includes a list of conditions that are deemed “eligible for study” through the Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP). In order for a condition to be included, Senators need to support the condition and officially ask for its inclusion. Senators have many competing appropriations priorities and in order for them to support a condition-specific request, they need to be educated and asked to do so by their constituents. (You)

As a result of grassroots outreach, the Senate has recognized sleep disorders as a condition eligible for study annually for a number of years. This support allows RLS medical researchers to compete for nearly \$300 million in federal research funding each year.

Senators are currently working on the FY 2019 DOD appropriations bill and deciding which conditions will be included on the next PRMRP eligible conditions list. Being included on the list one year is no guarantee of being included again in the next year. At this critical juncture, please reach out to the offices of your Senators and ask that they “once again support the inclusion of “sleep disorders” in the DOD PRMRP’s eligible conditions list in FY 2019.”

### **Take Action**

- Submit your story here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D5JMN9N>
- RLS Foundation will complete the letter below with your story and deliver it to your Senator

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Senate Office Building

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_,

Thank you for your leadership on patient care and public health issues. I write you today on behalf of the community of individuals affected by Restless Legs Syndrome to ask that you work with your colleagues to ensure that “sleep disorders” is once again listed as a condition eligible for study through the Department of Defense Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) within the Committee Report accompanying the Senate’s FY 2019 Defense Appropriations Bill.

**Tell your RLS story in 1-2 paragraphs - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D5JMN9N>**

Research on sleep disorders and RLS has relevance to nearly every body system and many other debilitating medical conditions. It also has significant applications for combat readiness and preparedness as well as implications for PTSD, stress, and related disorders. Through the PRMRP, the military has become a leading facilitator and coordinator of sleep disorders research, which has led to notable progress and meaningful partnerships with the stakeholder community. In the interest of further improving care for our affected veterans and active duty service members, please once again support the inclusion of sleep disorders as conditions eligible for study through the PRMRP during the FY 2019 appropriations process.

I hope you will work with your colleagues in support of keeping sleep disorders in the current draft list of eligible conditions for study as you finalize the current FY18 appropriations and once again list sleep disorders in FY 2019 as a condition eligible for study through the annual list on the Committee Report accompanying the Senate’s FY19 bill.

On behalf of the RLS community, thank you for your time and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

**[Your Name]**

**[Your Address]**

Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Members

Thad Cochran, Mississippi	Dick Durbin, Illinois
Mitch McConnell, Kentucky	Patrick Leahy, Vermont
Richard Shelby, Alabama	Diane Feinstein, California
Lamar Alexander, Tennessee	Patty Murray, Washington
Susan Collins, Maine	Jack Reed, Rhode Island
Lisa Murkowski, Alaska	John Tester, Montana
Lindsay Graham, South Carolina	Tom Udall, New Mexico
Roy Blunt, Missouri	Brian Schatz, Hawaii
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