

May 12, 2026

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Defense

The Honorable McConnell
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Defense

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Defense

The Honorable Christopher Coons
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Defense

Dear Chairman Calvert, Chairman McConnell, Ranking Member McCollum, and Ranking Member Coons:

The undersigned organizations write to thank you for your past support for endometrial cancer research and respectfully request your support to accelerate discovery to improve outcomes for patients by appropriating \$10 million for an endometrial cancer line item in the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Department of Defense (DoD) appropriations bill.

As you know, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2026 authorized an endometrial cancer research program in the DoD CDMRP. We now call on you to fund this program to ensure that there is dedicated funding to support research in one of the few cancers with rising incidence and mortality rates signaling to researchers that this area of study is being prioritized to support the improved health of our active duty military, veterans, and all Americans.

Endometrial cancer is the most common gynecologic cancer, and the fourth most common malignancy among women in the U.S. trailing only breast, lung, and colorectal cancers. In fact, in 2026, it is estimated that 68,270 new cases of uterine cancer will be diagnosed, and about 14,450 women will die from the disease.¹ It is especially concerning that we are seeing growing incidence among younger women of reproductive age, making this a rising readiness, survivorship, and family health issue. According to a study published in JAMA Oncology, the endometrial cancer mortality rate has also been increasing by almost two percent each year with even sharper increases among Asian, Hispanic, and Black women.²

Endometrial cancer is directly relevant to the Military Health System because it affects a large and growing population of women across the full military lifecycle, including approximately 247,000 active-duty women, more than 1 million female active-duty spouses/dependents, and

¹ <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/annual-cancer-facts-and-figures/2026/2026-cancer-facts-and-figures.pdf>

² Clarke MA, Devesa SS, Hammer A, Wentzensen N. Racial and Ethnic Differences in Hysterectomy-Corrected Uterine Corpus Cancer Mortality by Stage and Histologic Subtype. JAMA Oncol. 2022 Jun 1;8(6):895-903. doi: 10.1001/jamaoncol.2022.0009. PMID: 35511145; PMCID: PMC9073658.

roughly 2.1 million women veterans nationwide. As the population of women serving in the Armed Forces continues to grow, so too does the importance of research focused on diseases that uniquely or disproportionately affect women.

For active-duty women, endometrial cancer and its precursor conditions can directly affect deployability, duty performance, fertility, and long-term health. Abnormal uterine bleeding, metabolic syndrome, polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), and treatment-related reproductive consequences can create significant clinical burden during prime service years. Delays in diagnosis may lead to more intensive treatment, prolonged recovery, and loss of operational availability. Earlier detection, risk stratification, and less morbid treatments are therefore directly aligned with force health protection and medical readiness.

The relevance extends beyond active-duty personnel. Military retirees represent a large population of women who continue to receive care through the Military Health System or affiliated networks and who bear a growing burden of age-related cancers, including endometrial cancer. In addition, military spouses and dependents make up a substantial portion of the beneficiary population. Cancer in a spouse or parent can have profound downstream effects on family stability, caregiver burden, financial stress, and the overall resilience of the force. Protecting the health of dependents is therefore not separate from readiness; it is part of sustaining the military family infrastructure on which readiness depends.

Unfortunately, we anticipate the rates of endometrial cancer will continue to increase without more research and improved therapeutic interventions. Endometrial cancer research is aligned with the mission of the CDMRP because it offers opportunities for impactful advances in prevention, early detection, biomarker development, precision treatment, survivorship, and reduction of disparities. These advances would benefit service members, veterans, retirees, and dependents alike while addressing an increasingly important women's health need within the military community.

In closing, we thank you for your support for endometrial cancer research and we urge you to take the next step of establishing an endometrial cancer research program funded at \$10 million under the CDMRP in the Fiscal Year 2027 Defense Appropriations bill. Appropriating these funds will demonstrate a strong commitment and resolve to fight endometrial cancer and its devastating disparities that impact those who serve in our armed forces, their families, and millions of Americans touched by this disease.

Sincerely,

The Society of Gynecologic Oncology
American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists
American Society for Radiation Oncology
CancerCare
Cervivor, Inc.
Ovarian Cancer Project

Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
The Honorable Tina Brozman Foundation/Tina's Wish
The Laughlin Family Foundation
Society for Academic Specialists in General Obstetrics and Gynecology (SASGOG)
Society of Gynecologic Surgeons