The American Legion

OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

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February 25, 2016

Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
SH-717 Senate Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin:

On behalf of the over 2 million members of The American Legion, I would like to express support for continued and sustained funding of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) studying Gulf War Illness. Since the initial deployment for the 1990-1991 Gulf War, service members and veterans have continued to suffer from a broad spectrum of persistent symptoms including chronic headaches, cognitive difficulties, respiratory problems, gastrointestinal disorders and other conditions. Research conducted through the CDMRP is critical to discovering the causes of these conditions and finding effective treatments.

According to Resolution No. 127 *Gulf War Illness*, passed at the Legion's 2014 National Convention, The American Legion encourages "[devoting] appropriate resources to finding effective medical treatments to alleviate the unexplained physical symptoms of Gulf War veterans."

Ensuring this critical stream of research funding is vital to continuing the mission of caring for the men and women who have put themselves in harm's way on behalf of this nation. Progress continues to be made, and it's essential that progress continues, especially as the United States has maintained an active military presence in the Gulf region for well over two decades with no sign of abating. We must understand why these service members and veterans are suffering and research treatments to alleviate these conditions.

Again, The American Legion supports this critical research funding; and we thanks you for your support in addressing this important issue facing America's service members and veterans.

Respectfully,

DALE BARNETT
National Commander