August 27, 2018

The Honorable [NAME]

2222 Rayburn House Office Building

United States House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: Fiscal 2019 Defense Appropriations bill**

Dear [Representative/Senator NAME]:

My name is [NAME] and I am one of [over one million Americans living with melanoma OR the over 178,000 Americans who were diagnosed with melanoma this year OR I am one of the thousands of caregivers in America doing everything I can to ensure my loved one survives their melanoma diagnosis]

**INSERT PERSONAL STORY HERE**

According to the online journal of the military’s own medical school, the Uniformed Services University, “melanoma is the most significant cancer to affect the active duty military population.”

The high incidence of melanoma among members of the military warrants the need for a separate line item of at least $10 million in the Fiscal 2019 Defense Appropriations bill. Implementing more effective prevention strategies, proactive examinations and new drug development programs will save many lives and drive down the costs, bother personal and financial, associated today with the devastating diagnosis of advanced melanoma. Few other areas of cancer research can provide such immediate and definitive results.

For both males and females, melanoma is the second most frequently diagnosed cancer among active duty members and incidence rates are even higher in members age 50 and over. Life-saving melanoma research warrants a separate and distinct line item in the Conference on the Fiscal 2019 Defense Appropriations bill.

On behalf of the Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) and myself, we thank you for considering this important request and appreciate your support during conference on the Fiscal 2019 Defense Appropriations bill requesting $10 million for Department of Defense-funded melanoma research.

Respectfully,

[NAME]