



Hon. Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui

**Support Research into Fatal Bone Marrow Failure Diseases in FY2013
Appropriations**

From: The Honorable Doris O. Matsui
Sent By: louis.agnello@mail.house.gov
Date: 3/7/2012

Dear Colleague:

Please join me in sending the attached letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense in support of additional programmatic funding for research into bone marrow failure disorders.

Since 2008, the Bone Marrow Failure Disease Research Program at the Department of Defense has funded cutting edge research into myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS), aplastic anemia, and paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH), all of which occur when stem cells inside the bone marrow stop making enough healthy blood cells. In the past five fiscal years, Congress has appropriated nearly \$17 million for research into bone marrow failure diseases. This research is increasingly important to the U.S. Armed Services, as recent data indicate that service personnel who were deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan may have been exposed to environmental factors associated with bone marrow failure diseases.

Bone marrow failure diseases can strike any person of any age, of any gender and any race, in any neighborhood, anywhere in the world. They are life-threatening diseases that currently affect tens of thousands of men, women, and children every year. By studying Armed Forces personnel who have been diagnosed with these conditions, we can gain a much better understanding not only of what causes bone marrow failure diseases, but also of how to protect our troops - and the general public - in the future.

We are committed to finding cures for these tragic illnesses, and we request your support to ensure that the fiscal year 2013 Defense Department appropriations bill provides a continuation of funding for the Bone Marrow Failure Disease Research Program.

The Bone Marrow Failure Disease program is not an earmark. This request will be considered programmatic, and Members should submit the request online.

I respectfully urge you to join me in expressing your support for increased bone marrow failure disease research by signing on to the attached letter to the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. If you have any questions or would like to sign, please contact Louis Agnello in Representative Matsui's office at Louis.agnello@mail.house.gov(x5-7163) by **COB Friday, March 16, 2012.**

Sincerely,

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress