# Support the DoD Ovarian Cancer Research Program

+FY09 OC

Dear Member of Congress:

As a constituent and someone who has been touched by ovarian cancer, I am writing to respectfully request that you support a $25 million FY 2009 allocation for the Department of Defense (DoD) Ovarian Cancer Research Program to maintain current research and expand investigations into much-needed early detection and screening tools. In addition, I urge you to ensure that the current structure of the program is maintained as an independent, site-specific dedicated research entity.

Ovarian cancer – the deadliest of the gynecologic cancers – is the fifth leading cause of cancer death among American women. This year, an estimated 21,650 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and approximately 15,520 women will die from the disease. Of serious concern is that since the War on Cancer was declared in 1971, ovarian cancer survival rates have remained virtually unchanged. One of the key factors contributing to ovarian cancer mortality is the lack of an effective screening test to identify the disease at its earliest stage when the chance of survival is the greatest.

The DoD Ovarian Cancer Research Program plays a critical role in the identification of much-needed ovarian cancer early detection innovations. By providing increased funding for – and preserving the structure of – this critical research initiative in the FY 2009 DoD Appropriations measure, Congress will ensure that the program can sustain and expand its efforts to develop ovarian cancer screening tools that will help reduce mortality and increase survivorship for women across the nation.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. I look forward to hearing back from you regarding your support of increased FY 2009 funding for the DoD Ovarian Cancer Research Program.

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OVARIAN CANCER NATIONAL ALLIANCE