



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

June 1, 2015

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
United States House of Representatives
104 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Duckworth:

Please allow me to express our sincere gratitude to you for once again taking the lead to advocate for the preservation of House funding for the Peer Reviewed Orthopaedic Research Program in FY 2016. We deeply appreciate you being a champion of research to aid our wounded warriors. The American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons, representing over 18,000 board-certified military and civilian orthopaedic surgeons in the United States, is very grateful for your understanding of the great needs that exist in this field.

As you are aware, over eighty percent of injuries from the Global War on Terror involve the extremities – often severe and multiple injuries to the arms and legs. The Peer Reviewed Orthopaedic Research Program, operated by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, was established to quickly develop focused, basic and clinical research. The goal is to help military surgeons find new limb-sparing techniques, avoid amputations, and preserve and restore the function of injured extremities.

Please allow me to also recognize the leadership of your dedicated and highly effective staff—particularly Kalina Bakalov—who have been extremely helpful to us.

Congresswoman, your interest and leadership will enhance our nation's capacity to respond to current challenges and improve treatments for our wounded warriors. Please accept our sincere and heartfelt appreciation for everything that your fine staff and you have done to help us advocate for continued funding for this congressionally directed and competitively awarded medical research program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Teuscher MD".

David D. Teuscher, MD
President
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

cc: Thomas C. Barber, MD, Chair, AAOS Council on Advocacy
Karen L. Hackett, FACHE, CAE, AAOS Chief Executive Officer
William O. Shaffer, MD, AAOS Medical Director