March 17, 2016

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray,

As you work to prepare the Fiscal Year 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I urge you to consider the following report language request which is important to New York State and those living with lymphatic disease:

Report Language:

Office of the Director. Lymphatic Research and Lymphatic Disease- The Committee recommends that $70 million in lymphatic and lymphedema research funding be appropriated to the Office of the Director at NIH to support extramural interdisciplinary research relevant to the lymphatic system in health and disease. The Committee commends the trans-NIH Coordinating Committee for Lymphatic Research, which sponsored a historic Lymphatic Symposium in 2015. The Committee supports building on this momentum by growing the cadre of lymphatic researchers through the establishment of extramural interdisciplinary research training programs relevant to the lymphatic system in health and disease and by incorporating more reviewer expertise in lymphatic biology/disease in the pertinent standing study sections within the Center for Scientific Review. In as much as tens of millions of Americans are affected by issues related to the lymphatic system, this research will be instrumental in understanding the pivotal role of the lymphatic system in the pathogenesis and/or treatment of cancer metastasis, AIDS, auto-immune diseases, obesity, cardiovascular disease, and organ transplantation as well as those affected by lymphatic conditions after cancer or those with congenital conditions.

Up to 10 million Americans suffer from debilitating lymphedema and lymphatic disease for which there is no cure and few treatments. Funding is required to support research initiatives, draw researchers into this field and to support dedicated study sessions that keep researchers continually engaged.

Thank you for your hard work on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator