ASK: Provide $20 Million to Create A Colorectal Cancer Research Program Within the Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program

People are dying and promising science is being left on the table.

The Impact of Colorectal Cancer in the Military

According to a study published in the June 2009 issue of Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention, researchers found that colorectal cancer was one of the most common forms of cancer among active duty military personnel.

- Colorectal cancer diagnoses are increasing in young people. Those born in 1990 - a key age group for those in active duty - have double the risk of colon cancer and quadruple the risk of rectal cancer compared with adults born in 1950.

- For the past 10 years colorectal cancer has been eligible for funding through the Peer-Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP), competing against over a dozen other cancers for funding and without a strategic plan to guide investment.

Why A Colorectal Cancer Research Program is Needed

- Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death for men and women combined and it is preventable if caught early.

- To make meaningful progress in the fight against colorectal cancer and address the increase in colorectal cancer diagnoses among young people we need a dedicated, strategic approach and funding stream.

WE ARE LEAVING GOOD SCIENCE ON THE TABLE

In FY19, the PRCRP received 74 colorectal cancer applications and in FY20, they received 60 colorectal cancer applications.

Of that, in both years, 27 were deemed “highly meritorious”, but only 11 were funded.

Lives are at stake. Now is the time to create a Colorectal Cancer Research Program within the Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program.