





# FIGHT CRC POLICY PRIORITIES





## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED MEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM (CDMRP)

**ASK: Support providing \$20 million to create a Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) within the Department of Defense (DoD).**

### Why We Need a Colorectal Cancer Research Program:

-  Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death for men and women combined, and it is increasing in young people. It is now the leading cause of cancer death in men under age 50 and the second in women.
-  Those born in 1990 — a key age group for active duty military — have 2x the risk of colon cancer and 4x the risk of rectal cancer compared with adults born in 1950.
-  We are leaving good science on the table. In FY22, the DoD received 66 colorectal cancer applications. Of those, 25 were deemed “meritorious,” but only nine applications were funded.
-  To make meaningful progress in the fight against colorectal cancer, we need a dedicated, strategic approach and funding stream.

### What is the CDMRP?

-  The CDMRP is a program operated within the DoD to conduct medical research on topics and diseases identified by Congress.
-  The CDMRP fills research gaps by funding projects other agencies may not, especially high-impact, high-risk, and high-gain projects.
-  The CDMRP is unique because it focuses on solutions that will lead to cures or meaningful improvements in patient care; includes consumer advocates throughout the process; and funds established scientists, as well as the next generation of researchers.
-  Colorectal cancer has been eligible for funding through a program within the CDMRP called the Peer-Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) since FY10 and must compete against as many as 20 other cancers for limited funding.

**Colorectal cancer is the only top 5 cancer killer not to have its own research program within the DoD CDMRP.**

|                          | Estimated Deaths in 2024 (Men & Women) | Research Program at DoD? |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Lung Cancer              | 125,070                                | Yes                      |
| <b>Colorectal Cancer</b> | <b>53,010</b>                          | <b>NO</b>                |
| Pancreatic Cancer        | 51,750                                 | Yes                      |
| Breast Cancer            | 42,780                                 | Yes                      |
| Prostate Cancer          | 35,250                                 | Yes                      |