The Honorable [First Name Last Name]
[Office Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]

Dear Senator [Last Name],

**I am writing to respectfully request your support for the inclusion of facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD) research in the Fiscal Year 2026 Senate Department of Defense Appropriations bill as a condition eligible for funding under the Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP).**

FSHD is one of the most prevalent forms of muscular dystrophy, affecting approximately 1 in 8,000 people globally, or nearly one million individuals worldwide. This genetic muscle-wasting disease leads to significant challenges, including loss of mobility, difficulty with essential functions such as eating and smiling, and progressive, life-long impacts. Despite its devastating effects, FSHD currently has no FDA-approved treatments or cure.

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of FSHD. Many enter service with undiagnosed symptoms, and over time, the physical demands of military duties can exacerbate the condition. This can lead to misdiagnoses, improper discharges, and a loss of veterans' benefits, adding to the personal and financial burdens they face.

FSHD is caused by the inappropriate activation of the DUX4 gene in muscle tissue, leading to muscle degeneration. While progress has been made in understanding the genetic causes, additional funding is critically needed to advance diagnostics, discover biomarkers, and develop effective treatments. The inclusion of FSHD in the PRMRP will accelerate this progress and bring us closer to life-changing therapies and, ultimately, a cure.

Expanding research into FSHD will have wide-reaching benefits for both military personnel and civilians. Peer-reviewed research funded through the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) is an essential step toward alleviating the burden of this underfunded and serious genetic disorder.

I greatly appreciate your leadership in advancing health initiatives that impact both civilians and the military community. I respectfully urge you to support the FSHD Society’s request for inclusion in the FY26 PRMRP.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important initiative. I will follow-up with your staff to see if you are able to support this request.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Title/Organization, if applicable]