

# FPN Advocacy Webinar

## CRD Associates

November 12, 2026



# Agenda

- What is Advocacy?
- FPN’s Legislative Requests
- Budget and Appropriations Cycle
- Climate for Next Year
- How You Can Get Involved!

# What is the Role of Advocacy?

- **What is Advocacy?**
  - “Any action that speaks in favor of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports or defends, or pleads on behalf of others”

- **First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution**
  - “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and **to petition the Government for a redress of grievances**.”



# Who Are Our Advocates?

- Patients and Family Members
- Researchers
- FPN Staff and Board Members



# Types of Advocacy

- Write to your Members of Congress (email)
  (patients and researchers)
- Meet with your Members
  (DC in-person, back in the district, or virtual)
- Attend public meetings back in district
- Targeted Meetings by FPN Staff and Consultants

**What works best?**

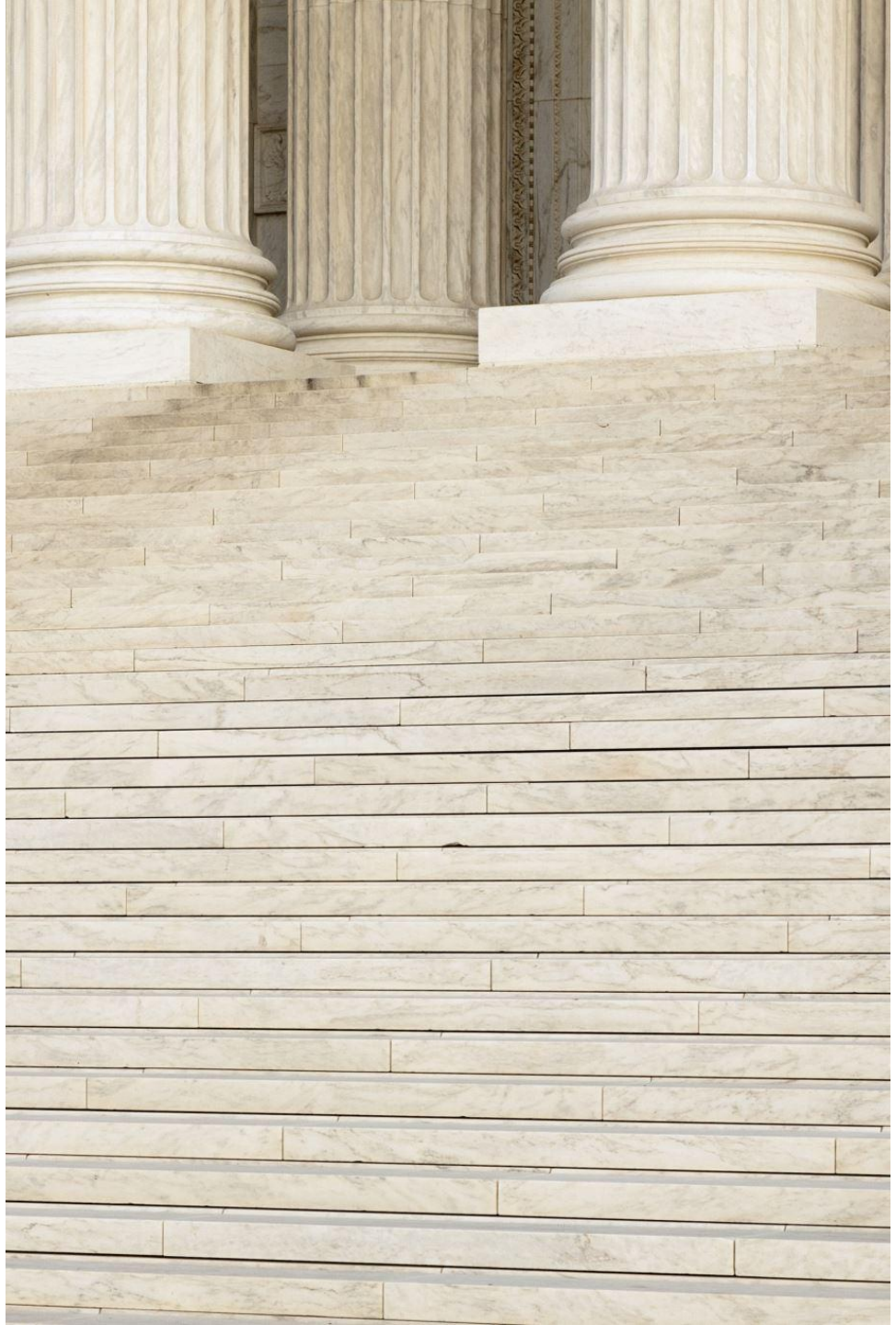
- Telling your personal story
- Research funds back in home state
- Connection to military/veterans



# FPN's Advocacy

- Create a new "**Peripheral Neuropathy Research Program**" at the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) at the Department of Defense (DoD)

- Increase PN research funding at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)



# The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP)

- Department of Defense (DoD), funded through the annual Defense Appropriations Act
- Uses specific congressionally appropriated dollars from the defense budget for health research programs
- Two –tier review process
  - Peer Review
  - Programmatic review
- FY26 Funding Level: $1.27 billion
  - 34 Individual Programs, Most Disease-Specific
  - PRMRP: $370 million for 52 eligible topics (including PN)

# CDMRP FY 2026 Appropriations

| Research Program | FY 2026 $M | Research Program | FY 2026 $M |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alcohol and Substance Use Disorders | $4.0 | Neurofibromatosis | $25.0 |
| Alzheimer's | $15.0 | Orthopaedic | $20.0 |
| Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis | $40.0 | Ovarian Cancer | $50.0 |
| Arthritis | $10.0 | Pancreatic Cancer | $20.0 |
| Autism | $8.0 | Parkinson's | $16.0 |
| Bone Marrow Failure | $7.5 | Peer Reviewed Cancer, *20 topics* | $165.0 |
| Breast Cancer | $145.0 | Peer Reviewed Medical, *52 topics* | $370.0 |
| Combat Readiness Medical | $5.0 | Prostate Cancer | $75.0 |
| Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy | $12.5 | Rare Cancers | $17.5 |
| Epilepsy | $12.0 | Reconstructive Transplant | $12.0 |
| Hearing Restoration | $5.0 | Spinal Cord Injury | $33.0 |
| Joint Warfighter Medical | $10.0 | Tick-Borne Disease | $7.0 |
| Kidney Cancer | $15.0 | Toxic Exposures | $15.0 |
| Lung Cancer | $20.0 | Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health | $40.5 |
| Lupus | $10.0 | Tuberous Sclerosis Complex | $10.0 |
| Melanoma | $40.0 | Vision | $10.0 |

# What is the PRMRP

- Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program, part of the “Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program”
- Funded at $370 million in FY26
- Includes dozens of “eligible topics” determined by statute (Defense Appropriations Act)
- “Peripheral Neuropathy” has been an eligible topic since FY21
- Conditions and funding added by the Senate only (House plays no role)
- PN would not have been added without advocacy!



# History of FPN's Advocacy

- "Peripheral Neuropathy" first included as an eligible condition in the PRMRP in fiscal year 2021.
- Included every year since (FY21-26) in the annual Defense Appropriations Act.
- $25 million+ awarded for PN grants from the PRMRP.
- Raised awareness about the importance of funding PN research at NIH, and improving coordination among Institutes.

Foundation for Peripheral Neuropathy

# Status of FY27 Requests

- Senate has yet to take any action on the FY27 Defense Appropriations and Labor-HHS Appropriations Acts.
- Congress returned this week from a long break for the midterm elections.
- Current “Continuing Resolution” will expire December 11.
- 119th Congress will adjourn on January 2, 2027.
- 120th Congress will be sworn in on January 2, 2027.

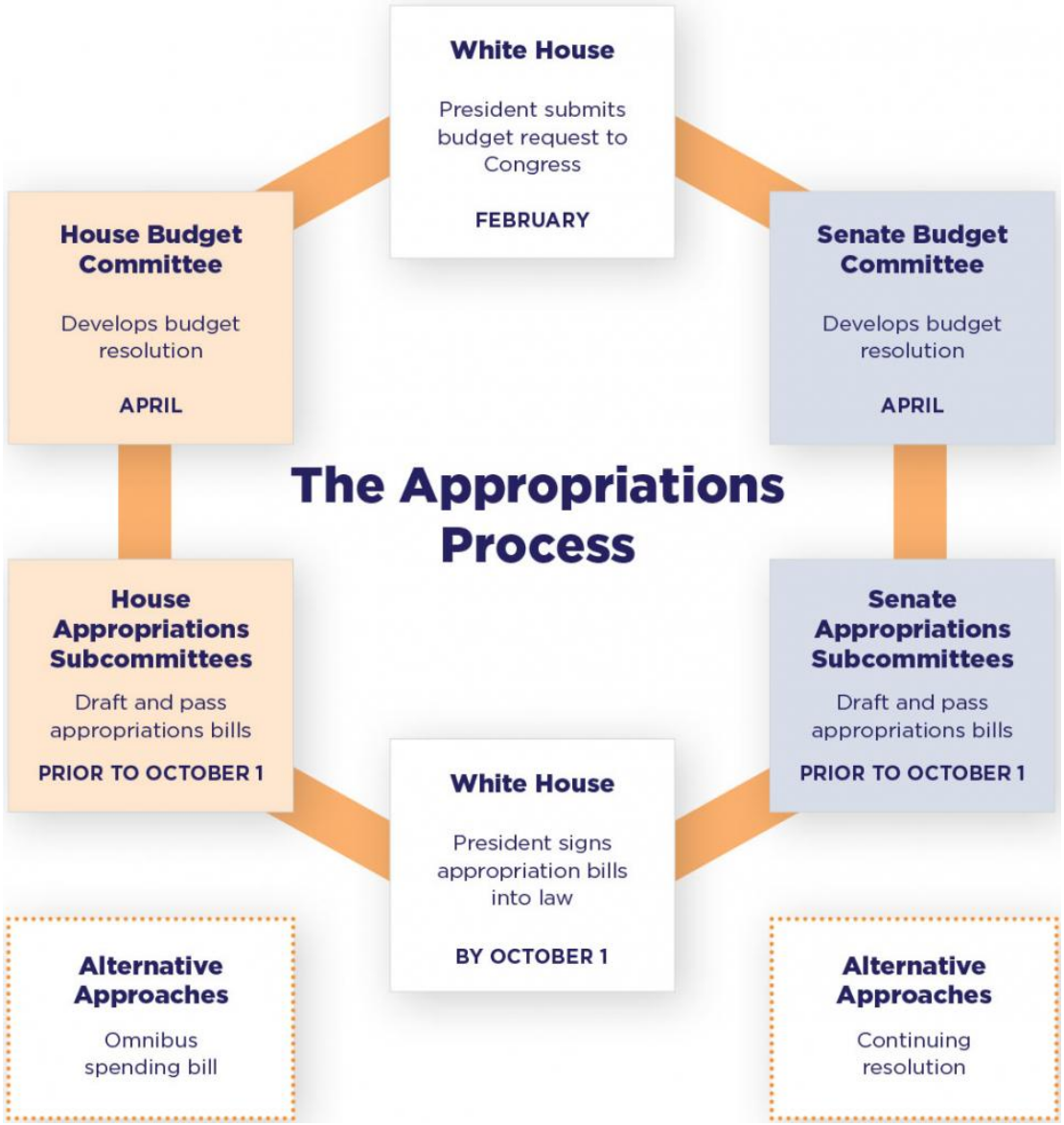



# FY28 Requests

- Create a new “Peripheral Neuropathy Research Program” within the CDMRP
- Increase funding for and coordination of research at the NIH

# Budget & Appropriations Cycle

- President's Budget-February
- Individual Member Deadlines
  - House: February, March
  - Senate: March, April
- Committee Deadlines
  - House: March, April
  - Senate: April, May
- Committee Markups: Spring



# 120th Congress: Climate

- **Democratic Majorities in the House and Senate**

  - House: 253-157 with 25 races still to be decided
  - Senate: 54-44 with 2 races still to be decided.

- **Changes to Appropriations Committees**

  - House Chair: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
    Defense Subcommittee: Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)
    Labor-HHS: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)

  - Senate Chair: Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)
    Defense Subcommittee: ?
    Labor-HHS Subcommittee: Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)

# How You Can Get Involved!

- **FPN Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill-March 10, 2027**
  - Last Year: 19 Advocates from 11 States, 34 Meetings
- Virtual or Local Meetings with your Representatives and Senators
- Email Your Members of Congress (next year)



# Advocacy Day: What to Expect

- FPN assists with scheduling your House and Senate meetings
- Training Webinar prior to March 10
- FPN staff, board members, consultants will accompany you
- Meetings mostly with staff, typically 30 minutes
- Tell Your personal story!  How does PN affect you?
- Leave-behind packets and prep documents
- You are NOT expected to be an expert in the legislative process.

*And perhaps of greatest importance…*

- Meet and become friends with other PN advocates from across the country!