

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense  
H-405 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

**We write to respectfully request your support for \$36.349 million for the U.S. Department of Defense's (DoD's) Strategic and Low Intensity Conflict Demining (SLICD) Program (formerly, the Humanitarian Demining Research and Development Program) implemented by the U.S. Army.** The SLICD Program develops, tests, and validates technology and equipment used to detect and clear landmines, unexploded ordnance (UXO), and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The program facilitates in-country field evaluations for new demining technology that provides the DoD with invaluable evaluation data which is used to improve military countermine and explosive ordnance disposal capabilities, while also benefiting the affected host country. As U.S. adversaries develop and deploy new explosive threat types around the world, SLICD must continue receiving the necessary resources to achieve breakthroughs in demining technology for the U.S. warfighter and recovering, post-conflict nations.

The SLICD Program generates three specific lines of effort. First, the field evaluation cycle collects critical data that SLICD staff uses to improve demining equipment and increase the United States' technical capacity to respond to explosive threats. Second, successfully trialed equipment is used to train and equip explosive disposal units of allied militaries. By equipping partner militaries to handle their own explosive threats, U.S. soldiers are more likely to remain out of harm's way. Third, SLICD equipment amplifies taxpayer value by increasing the amount of clearance performed on Department of State humanitarian demining projects without increasing costs.

The SLICD Program has a track record of success, having performed over 300 operational field evaluations in 46 countries since 1995. The program is responsible for developing advanced technology for the Handheld Standoff Mine Detection System, which combines metal detection with ground penetrating radar and has produced a savings of roughly \$60 million since 2007 from just one State Department/National Security Related Programs (NSRP)-funded implementing partner due to the efficiencies created, and approximately \$8 million in 2025 alone. The use of the TRAXX/T800, built to cut through hard-to-see tripwires and lift mines from soil has enabled a savings of more than \$8 million in efficiencies in Ukraine in 2024 and 2025 – enabling one demining operator to complete in 3,358 workdays what would have taken 25,456 workdays with traditional equipment. Overall, SLICD equipment has been used to clear more than 33,293 acres of land, and to destroy more than 420,000 mines and UXO. As you know, the SLICD Program receives funding from **Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Army / Program Element 0603920A.**

Thanks to strong bipartisan support, Congress provided \$36.349 million for the SLICD Program in Fiscal Year 2026. Maintaining funding is essential to maximize savings in the NSRP budget and support the purchase and evaluation of unfunded new technologies, potentially including air spades, remote sensing technologies, micro-tillers, tripwire detectors, scorpion mine detection systems, and drone magnetometers.

**We urge the committee to maintain level funding of \$36.349 million in Fiscal Year 2027 for SLICD.**

This funding will improve the ability of U.S. soldiers and our allies to safely detect and clear landmines, UXO, and IEDs, as well as protect civilian lives. This funding is especially important as new conflicts uncover previously unknown and challenging threats in Ukraine and across the Middle East and Asia.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you throughout the appropriations process to save many military and civilian lives.

Sincerely,



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



Brian J. Mast  
Member of Congress



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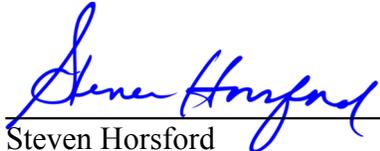
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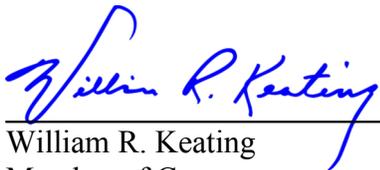
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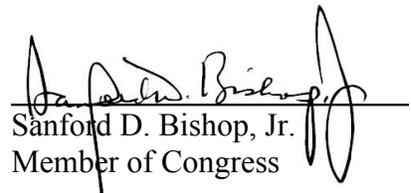
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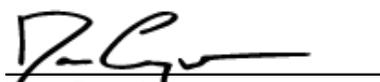
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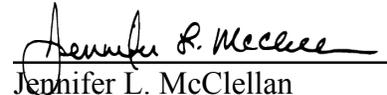
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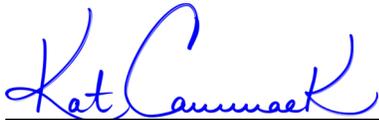
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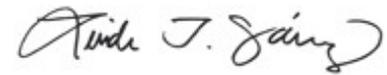
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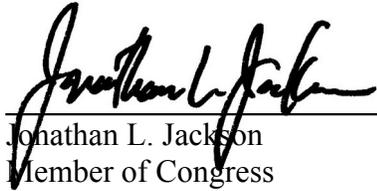
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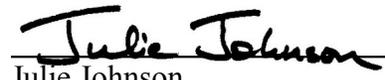
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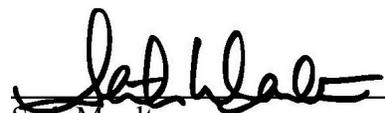
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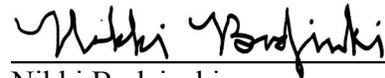
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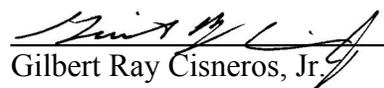
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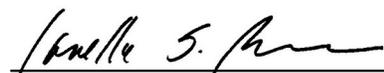
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