



March 19, 2012

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Labor, Health and Human Services
Education and Related Agencies
Appropriations Subcommittee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Ranking Republican
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Appropriations Subcommittee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chairman Cochran, Chairman Harkin, and Senator Shelby:

As members of One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a coalition of public interest groups representing millions of cancer researchers, patients, survivors and their families throughout the nation, we ask that you continue to make funding for cancer research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) a priority in the FY 2013 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. OVAC recognizes that Congress has a difficult task in balancing priorities within the budget. However, cuts to funding for ongoing cancer research programs would squander the progress made during the past few years and cause lasting harm to cancer patients and their families. OVAC is requesting that you provide the NIH with a budget of at least \$32.7 billion in FY 2013, including \$5.36 billion for the National Cancer Institute and \$292 million for the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

Cancer is the leading threat to health in our country that reaches indiscriminately into every district represented in Congress. The disease will kill more than 570,000 people in the United States this year, or one life taken by cancer every minute. It is estimated more than 1,600,000 new cancer cases will be diagnosed in 2012. Cancer costs our nation hundreds of billions of dollars each year in medical care and lost productivity. The personal loss for victims of the disease and their families now occurring in every community is immeasurable.

Congressional support for cancer research funding is responsible for much of the progress we have seen in the fight against cancer. Today, nearly 1 in 20 Americans is a cancer survivor, thanks in part to the scientific advances made possible by taxpayers. Major advances have occurred. In the past year alone, federally funded research has led to life-altering cancer research

breakthroughs and the development of effective treatments for some of the most challenging cancers, including metastatic melanoma and recurrent ovarian cancer.

Despite these successes, significant challenges remain. Progress for some types of cancer has not kept pace with overall improvements in survival rates. Moreover, cancer incidence is projected to nearly double by 2020, particularly among the aging Baby Boomer population.

Lastly, it is important to note the importance of NIH funding to our nation's economy. The NIH budget supports medical research in every state. In turn, these research dollars further scientific institutions and enterprises, skilled job creation and economic development. In FY 2010, the NIH budget supported more than 485,000 jobs across the country and produced \$69 billion in new economic activity.

For all of these reasons, we ask you to ensure that funding for cancer research and the NIH remains a top national priority and provide the NIH with a budget of at least \$32.7 billion in FY 2013, including \$5.36 billion for the National Cancer Institute and \$292 million for the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. The members of OVAC thank you for your consideration of this request and stand ready to support your efforts to promote research funding.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Prostate Cancer Prevention
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Association for Cancer Research
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society for Radiation Oncology
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network
Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research
CureSearch for Children's Cancer
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Friends of Cancer Research
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus
International Myeloma Foundation
LIVESTRONG
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Malecare Prostate Cancer Support
Men's Health Network
National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer Coalitions
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Brain Tumor Society
National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)

National Patient Advocate Foundation
Oncology Nursing Society
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Preventing Colorectal Cancer
Sarcoma Foundation of America
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists
Susan G. Komen for the Cure Advocacy Alliance
Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network