



February 21, 2018

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

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Labor, Health and Human Services
Education and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Labor, Health and Human Services
Education and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Cochran and Blunt and Ranking Members Leahy and Murray:

As members of One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a coalition of public interest groups representing millions of cancer researchers, patients, survivors and their families, we are writing to commend you for providing relief from sequestration with the passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. We now urge you to provide the highest possible 302(b) allocation to the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

Thanks to your leadership, significant progress has been made to reduce the loss of purchasing power experienced by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) since FY 2003, the end of the five-year doubling of NIH. But much more must be done. For FY 2018, OVAC requested a \$2.144 billion increase for NIH – \$2 billion plus the \$144 million increase in 21st Century Cures Act funding for NIH that Congress has already committed to provide this fiscal year. Now that Congress has raised the FY 2018 nondefense discretionary budget cap, we urge you to build on your extraordinary support for biomedical research by providing at least \$2.144 billion more for NIH, including at least a proportional, \$319 million increase for NCI. (This increase should be in addition to any new NIH funding specifically set aside for research on opioid abuse and other initiatives.) Even with an increase of \$2.144 billion, NIH funding would still be \$5.5 billion, or 13 percent, less than it would have been this fiscal year if funding had simply kept up with biomedical inflation since FY 2003.

While NIH funding has risen in recent years, funding for cancer prevention and control programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has lagged behind. In fact, between FY 2010 and FY 2017, funding for these programs fell by \$14 million, from \$370 million to \$356 million. Adjusted for inflation, the purchasing power for CDC's cancer programs dropped by 11 percent over those seven years. Congress has a rare opportunity to reverse this trend and invest in CDC's

evidence-based cancer prevention and control programs, which are saving lives in communities across the country. We urge you to provide an increase of \$184 million, for a total of \$514 million, for these vital activities.

The members of OVAC thank you for your consideration of this request and stand ready to support your efforts to promote cancer research and prevention funding.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Association for Cancer Research
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Surgeons Cancer Department
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Urological Association
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Cancer Support Community
Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy
Deadliest Cancers Coalition
ECAN Esophageal Cancer Action Network
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus (ICCC)
International Myeloma Foundation
KCAN - Kidney Cancer Action Network
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
LIVESTRONG
Lung Cancer Alliance
LUNGevity Foundation
Men's Health Network
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation
National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer Coalitions (NASPCC)
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Brain Tumor Society
National Cancer Registrars Association
National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)
Oncology Nursing Society
Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Sarcoma Foundation of America
Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer
Society of Gynecologic Oncology

St. Baldrick's Foundation

Susan G. Komen

Triage Cancer

Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network

Zero--The End of Prostate Cancer