



Stop Cancer Before It Starts!

February 27, 2015

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Mr. Shaun Donovan

Director

The Office of Management and Budget

725 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW

Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Donovan,

On behalf of the Prevent Cancer Foundation, the nation's only nonprofit focused exclusively on cancer prevention and early detection, I am writing today in regards to President Obama's FY16 budget proposal.

There are many strengths of the President's proposed budget. We applaud the focus on the middle class and promotion of policies that are "practical, not partisan." Further, the President specifically notes that the budget "builds on the progress we have made ensuring that every American has the peace of mind that comes with quality, affordable health insurance" which is a critical value as we continue to craft a system that prioritizes and values the health of all Americans.

These goals were clearly evidenced by the President's proposed investments in the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Cancer Institute (NCI), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It is critical for these agencies to receive adequate, sustainable, and predictable funding to keep pace with our nation's evolving health care needs. Moreover the President's new Precision Medicine Initiative is vital at a juncture when medical breakthroughs depend on a rapidly evolving science base and strong and unwavering commitment to biomedical research in the United States.

However, the Prevent Cancer Foundation is concerned about some of the proposed cuts which could have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals in need.

Mr. Donovan  
February 27, 2015  
Page Two

Although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) would receive an overall two percent increase in funding under the President's budget, screening programs would suffer from a \$55 million cut. These screening programs for cancers such as breast, cervical, and colorectal are a necessity for thousands of individuals (many of whom are vulnerable and underserved). Over the past 20 years, 4.3 million women have benefited from the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection program. Likewise, the Colorectal Cancer Control Program has provided screenings to 20,000 people over the past five years. Early detection saves lives and we believe it is short-sighted to eliminate funding for programs that can promote wellness and ameliorate some of the financial burdens of the second leading cause of death in this country.

Although the Affordable Care Act did improve access for millions of Americans, there are still many, for a variety of complex reasons, who cannot access other means of screening. For instance, individuals in states that have chosen not to expand Medicaid coverage may not have access to such screening services. This not only puts lives needlessly at risk, but is also fiscally irresponsible as prevention and early detection programs are far more affordable than the costs of cancer treatment and care.

We strongly support adequate funding to the NIH, NCI, HHS, FDA and CDC. These agencies have long been leaders in innovation, health promotion, and safety net programs to ensure the health and wellbeing of everyone in our nation.

If the Foundation can serve as a resource, please do not hesitate to contact me at [Carolyn.Aldige@Preventcancer.org](mailto:Carolyn.Aldige@Preventcancer.org) or 703.519.2114.

Sincerely,

*Carolyn Aldigé*

Carolyn Aldigé  
President and Founder