



November 24, 2020

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Chairman Blunt, Ranking Members Cole and Murray:

For over 20 years, One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC) has united the nation's cancer community to advocate for long-term, sustained funding increases for cancer research and prevention. We channel the passions of millions of Americans who have been affected by cancer.

As you work to finalize the FY 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, the OVAC coalition urges you to support at least **\$43.68 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and \$6.72 billion for the National Cancer Institute (NCI)** in any final FY 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) Appropriations bill. Additionally, we urge you to provide at least **\$559 million**, OVAC's recommended level for **cancer programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**. We also urge you to provide at least **\$15.5 billion in emergency supplemental funding to the NIH** as suggested by NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins during recent Senate testimony. This emergency funding will be used to ensure that biomedical research and clinical trials impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic can be restarted when safe to do so and for research related to COVID-19.

There is much to celebrate in the fight against cancer. The U.S. cancer death rate declined by 29 percent from 1991 to 2017, including a 2.2 percent drop from 2016 to 2017, the largest single-

year drop in cancer mortality ever reported. Yet cancer is still the nation's second-leading cause of death, with many still not benefiting from that progress. In 2020, over 1.8 million Americans will be diagnosed and more than 600,000 will die from cancer. Meanwhile, COVID-19 has stalled cancer research and clinical trials, forced many Americans to delay or cancel regular cancer screenings, and interrupted treatment for patients. Because of the pandemic, death rates from cancer could rise for the first time since 1991.

As the nation's population ages overall, so, too, the number of people diagnosed with cancer will increase as well – from an estimated 1.7 million in 2019 to 2.1 million in 2030. We are therefore grateful for the bipartisan support for year to year, sustained funding increases at the NIH and NCI. NCI is experiencing a demand for research funding that is far beyond that of any other Institute or Center (IC) at NIH and we are grateful for the bipartisan attention this issue has garnered in Congress. We believe that any final funding package should again address this issue as outlined in the Senate Chairman's mark.

The COVID-19 pandemic is bringing into sharp relief the importance of cancer screening and prevention programs at the CDC. The pandemic has put a halt to many life-saving cancer screenings. The nation must continue to invest in successful CDC programs that ensure people have options for cancer screening regardless of income or insurance status. It is crucial to fully fund these programs to ensure all Americans can benefit from early identification of treatable cancers. We therefore urge Congress to fully fund these programs in FY 2021 at the level recommended by OVAC of \$559 million.

Once again, thank you for your continued leadership on funding issues important in the fight against cancer. Funding for cancer research and prevention must continue to be top budget priorities in order to increase the pace of progress in the fight against cancer. OVAC once again calls on Congress to sustain our nation's commitment to cancer research and prevention by increasing support for these efforts.

Please contact OVAC Chair Caroline Powers at Caroline.Powers@cancer.org with any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Association for Cancer Research
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer
American Institute for Cancer Research
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Urological Association
Association for Clinical Oncology
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network
Cancer Support Community
Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research

Children's Cancer Cause
Deadliest Cancers Coalition
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Esophageal Cancer Action Network
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Friends of Cancer Research
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
Intercultural Cancer Council Coalition
International Myeloma Foundation
KidneyCAN
LIVESTRONG Foundation
LUNGevity Foundation
Men's Health Network
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation
National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer Coalitions
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Brain Tumor Society
National Cancer Registrars Association
North American Association of Central Cancer Registries, Inc. (NAACCR)
Oncology Nursing Society
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Prostate Cancer Foundation
Prostate Conditions Education Council
Sarcoma Foundation of America
Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
St. Baldrick's Foundation
Susan G. Komen
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
The Life Raft Group
Triage Cancer
Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network
ZERO - The End of Prostate Cancer