



## OVAC FY 2016 Appropriations Requests

One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a broad coalition of cancer-related organizations representing millions of Americans, calls on the Administration and Congress to make funding for cancer research and prevention programs a top priority in fiscal year (FY) 2016.

The more than 200 diseases that we call “cancer” take a tremendous toll on our nation. It is estimated that almost 1.7 million people in the U.S. will be diagnosed with cancer this year. More than 589,000 Americans will die from the disease in 2015, which translates to more than 1,600 people a day. Annual cancer incidence rates are also projected to increase by 31 percent over the next decade, growing to 2.1 million people diagnosed in 2025. Recent estimates also show that cancer costs the U.S. economy more than \$216 billion annually in direct treatment costs and lost productivity, a number that will increase dramatically as incidence rates climb.

Despite these staggering statistics, there is significant progress in the fight against cancer. Since the mid-1990s, overall cancer mortality rates have been in decline, and there are now more than 14.5 million cancer survivors living in the U.S. Advances in basic biology and genetics over the past two decades have significantly improved how many cancers are prevented, diagnosed, and treated. Some cancer patients are benefiting from these advances in precision medicine through the availability of therapeutic vaccines that harness a patient’s immune system or drugs that target cancers resulting from particular genetic mutations. The reduction in mortality rates and increase in survivorship is also due in part to the development of evidence-based prevention strategies.

But our work is far from complete. Progress has been painfully elusive for some childhood and adult cancers. The burden of cancer is also greater in some racial and ethnic groups. Additionally, treatment options are lacking for some diseases or have significant long-term side effects. Even for all the cancers for which we have effective tools, many questions remain unanswered.

Clearly, more resources are needed for the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as a whole. A promising new opportunity is the President’s proposed Precision Medicine Initiative, which calls for a significant investment to improve our understanding of the causes of and potential therapies for cancer and other diseases. An innovative research initiative such as this, along with a continued need to support ongoing research, requires a greater investment in medical research. OVAC recognizes the challenges of providing funding increases under the current budget caps and therefore urges Congress to pass legislation which would raise the budget caps by a sufficient level to support a 10 percent increase for the NIH in FY 2016, bringing its budget to \$33 billion. Within that amount, OVAC requests that funding for NCI be prioritized and that NCI receive at least a 10 percent increase. In order to meet the growing burden of cancer, and capitalize on today’s unprecedented scientific opportunities, NCI itself has developed a professional judgment budget recommendation for FY 2016. OVAC asks that Congress work to provide funding for NCI to support the myriad of promising initiatives outlined in this document, including a greater investment in precision medicine.

The role of prevention in the fight against cancer is also critical. We know that about half of all cancer death could be avoided by simply using the knowledge and tools that are already available to us. The CDC cancer prevention and control programs provide vital resources to every state for cancer monitoring and surveillance, screening programs, tobacco cessation, state cancer control planning and implementation, and awareness initiatives targeting skin, prostate, colon, ovarian, and blood cancers. As a result of funding shortfalls, about 60 percent of eligible women go unscreened for breast cancer; for colorectal cancer, only 19 percent of uninsured adults are adequately screened compared to 62 percent of insured adults. Adequate funding for the CDC cancer programs in FY 2016 will ensure that a half-million women are screened for breast and cervical cancer, allow tens of thousands of men and women to have access to colorectal screening, enable proper monitoring of state- and local-based cancer patterns and trends, and provide greater support for state and local awareness and education programs.

Additionally, oncology nurses are on the front lines when it comes to providing quality cancer care, and contribute significantly to cancer research. More funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration's nurse training programs is necessary to ensure enough resources to fund a higher rate of nursing scholarships and loan repayment applications and to support other essential endeavors to address the current and future nursing workforce shortage.

OVAC also recognizes the importance of additional funding for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to finance critical safety programs; and upgrade laboratories, scientific expertise, and information technology systems. A strong FDA is needed to deliver safe and effective therapies to market. The member organizations recognize the critical role that the FDA serves as the nexus between new scientific discoveries and routine cancer care.

Funding for cancer research, prevention, nursing, and the FDA must be top budget priorities in order for the promise of progress in the fight against cancer to be realized. OVAC calls on Congress to sustain our nation's commitment to cancer research and prevention by increasing support for these efforts. For FY 2016, OVAC urges Congress to support the following funding recommendations:

**National Institutes of Health (NIH) - \$33 billion, including:**

- **National Cancer Institute (NCI): \$5.4 billion**
- **National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD): \$294 million**
- **National Institute on Nursing Research (NINR): \$150 million**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Cancer Programs - \$513 million, including:**

- **National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program: \$50 million**
- **National Program of Cancer Registries: \$65 million**
- **National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program: \$275 million**
- **Colorectal Cancer Control Program: \$70 million**
- **National Skin Cancer Prevention Education Program: \$5 million**
- **Prostate Cancer Awareness Campaign: \$35 million**
- **Ovarian Cancer Control Initiative: \$7.5million**
- **Gynecologic Cancer and Education and Awareness (Johanna's Law): \$5.5 million**

**Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)**

- **Title VIII Nursing Programs: \$244 million**

**Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - \$2.8 billion**



## Groups Signed on to OVAC FY 2016 Appropriations Requests

Action to Cure Kidney Cancer  
Alliance for Prostate Cancer Prevention  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network  
C-Change  
Cancer Support Community  
Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research  
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer  
Esophageal Cancer Action Network  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
Friends of Cancer Research  
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association  
Intercultural Cancer Caucus  
International Myeloma Foundation  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
The Life Raft Group  
LIVESTRONG Foundation  
Lung Cancer Alliance  
Malecare Cancer Support  
Men's Health Network  
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation  
MPN Research Foundation  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer Coalitions  
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  
Prostate Conditions Education Council  
Sarcoma Foundation of America  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
St. Baldrick's Foundation  
Susan G. Komen  
Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network