



OVAC FY 2017 Appropriations Requests

One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a broad coalition of cancer-related organizations representing millions of Americans, supports the goals of the Cancer Moonshot initiative and calls on the White House and Congress to follow through on their vision to make funding for cancer research, prevention and survivorship programs a top priority in fiscal year (FY) 2017.

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 595,000 Americans will die from the disease in 2016, which translates to more than 1,630 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 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.

As a community, we are inspired by the President’s call for a Cancer Moonshot and support the proposed increase in funding directed towards accelerating progress in preventing, diagnosing, and treating cancers. This new initiative comes on the heels of the largest increase in cancer research funding in over a decade. OVAC is appreciative to Congress for passing the 2016 budget deal, essentially kick starting the work to be done towards the new moonshot initiative. The proposed increases for the NIH, especially to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and Precision Medicine Institute (PMI) are an imperative to the restoration of funding shortfalls that have severely hampered progress in the last decade and will build on the support provided by Congress in FY16.

OVAC urges Congress to support a \$2.4 billion increase for the NIH in FY 2017, bringing its budget to \$34.5 billion. In light of the moonshot initiative, OVAC requests that funding for NCI be prioritized and that NCI receive at least \$5.9 billion, an increase of \$680 million, in order to get the program underway.

The role of prevention in the fight against cancer is also critical. We know that about half of all cancer deaths 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, survivorship programs, and awareness initiatives targeting skin, prostate, colon, ovarian, and blood cancers. As a result of funding shortfalls, fewer than one in ten eligible women currently receive screenings through the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP). Overall, 2.6 million or 13.5 percent of women aged 40-64 will remain uninsured and eligible for breast cancer screening services through the program in 2017. Similarly, 5.7 million or 14.6 percent of women (age 21-64) will remain uninsured in 2017 and will be eligible for cervical cancer screening through NBCCEDP. For colorectal cancer screening, nearly 2.7 million or 13.4 percent of men and women aged 50-64 will remain eligible for services offered through the Colorectal Cancer Control Program (CRCCP) in 2017.

We were dismayed to see proposed cuts to the CDC in the President's budget and strongly urge Congress to reject this proposal and increase funding to the CDC cancer programs. Adequate funding for the CDC cancer programs in FY 2017 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. It is also imperative that the CDC have sufficient resources to address the unique needs of the growing population of survivors who are living with, through and beyond a cancer diagnosis. We know that even after treatment ends, the cancer journey does not, and many survivors face long-term emotional, physical and financial side effects.

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 regulatory science, critical drug safety programs; and upgrade laboratories, scientific expertise, and information technology systems. OVAC supports the investment proposed by the Administration budget which would seek to create a new virtual Oncology Center of Excellence in order to fund and support new methods of prevention, screening, diagnosis and treatments of cancer. The member organizations recognize the critical

role that the FDA serves as the nexus between new scientific discoveries and routine cancer care, and support.

Funding for cancer research, prevention, survivorship, nursing, and the FDA must continue to be top budget priorities in order to increase the pace of progress in the fight against cancer. OVAC once again lauds the new Cancer Moonshot Initiative and calls on Congress to sustain our nation's commitment to cancer research and prevention by increasing support for these efforts.

For FY 2017, OVAC urges Congress to support the following funding recommendations:

National Institutes of Health (NIH) - \$34.5 billion, including:

- **National Cancer Institute (NCI): \$5.9 billion**
- **National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD): \$301 million**
- **National Institute on Nursing Research (NINR): \$157 million**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Cancer Programs - \$514 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: \$7.5 million**
- **Gynecologic Cancer and Education and Awareness (Johanna's Law): \$5.5 million**
- **Cancer Survivorship Resource Center: \$900,000**

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

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

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - \$2.9 billion



Groups Signed on to OVAC FY 2017 Appropriations Requests

Action to Cure Kidney Cancer
Alliance for Prostate Cancer Prevention (APCaP)
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Association for Cancer Research
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO)
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network
Cancer Support Community
Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Esophageal Cancer Action Network
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Friends of Cancer Research
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus
International Myeloma Foundation
LIVESTRONG Foundation
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS)
The Life Raft Group
Lung Cancer Alliance
Malecare Cancer Support
Men's Health Network
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation
MPN Research Foundation
National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer Coalitions (NASPCC)
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Brain Tumor Society
National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)
National LGBT Cancer Project
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Oncology Nursing Society
Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network



Groups Signed on to OVAC FY 2017 Appropriations Requests

Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition (PPCC)

Prevent Cancer Foundation

Sarcoma Foundation of America

Society of Gynecologic Oncology

St. Baldrick's Foundation

Susan G. Komen

Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network

ZERO – The End of Prostate Cancer