



November 3, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Democratic Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Leader McConnell and Leader Reid:

As members of One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a broad coalition of nearly 50 cancer-related organizations that focus on the federal investment in cancer research, we urge you to support the National Cancer Moonshot Initiative by taking up and passing the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act when Congress returns this month.

OVAC members believe the Cancer Moonshot Initiative objective of making a decade's worth of life saving scientific progress in the next five years can most likely be achieved by Congress promptly assuring essential funding of it by enactment of the 21st Century Cures Act in 2016. As a coalition, OVAC focuses exclusively on increasing federal funding for cancer research and other programs essential to the fight against cancer, which is why our comments focus solely on the need for greater resources for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Cancer Institute (NCI), and Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Many OVAC members have and will continue to reach out to you directly to comment on other issues being considered by the committee.

It is estimated that almost 1.7 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer this year. More than 595,000 Americans will die from the disease in 2016, and it will cost our economy an estimated \$216 billion in direct treatment costs and lost productivity. 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. Furthermore, the number of cancer survivors now exceeds 15.5 million, and services for those living with, through and beyond a diagnosis must be improved.

For decades, research conducted at NIH and NCI has played a key role in virtually every major cancer prevention, detection, and treatment discovery. The Cancer Moonshot Initiative provides a blueprint for how to accelerate and extend progress for the cancer patients who need it most by helping to modernize clinical trials, build on advances in precision oncology, develop effective immunotherapies for a broader array of cancers, and ensure an appropriate emphasis on pediatric cancers as well.

The importance of Congress funding the Cancer Moonshot Initiative as soon as possible by enactment of the 21st Century Cures Act in 2016 is without question. Waiting until next year to act is not an option for cancer patients and their families. It is also imperative that funding provided for Cancer Moonshot research be specifically directed to NCI. NCI is the scientific thought leader behind the Cancer Moonshot and the scientific recommendations in the Blue Ribbon Panel report. Directly funding the Cancer Moonshot at NCI will ensure that research recommended in the Blue Ribbon Panel report will proceed without delay.

The members of OVAC are grateful for the continued support you have provided for the Cancer Moonshot and the bipartisan manner in which this bill has been negotiated. On behalf of the millions of researchers, physicians, pharmacists, nurses, patients, and survivors represented by OVAC, we thank you for your efforts and ask you to complete this momentous effort to help cancer patients and accelerate the pace of medical discovery.

Sincerely,  
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 Sexual Health Association  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO)  
American Urological Association  
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 (HOPA)  
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 Cervical Cancer Coalition  
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  
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition (PPCC)  
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  
ZERO – The End of Prostate Cancer

Cc: United States House Committee on Energy and Commerce Members

Cc: United State Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Members