



March 13, 2015

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

As members of One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a collaboration of public interest groups representing millions of Americans impacted by cancer, from researchers, physicians, pharmacists and nurses, to patients, survivors, and their loved ones, we are writing to thank you for introducing the American Cures Act (S. 289).

Congress' past support for cancer research has led to improved ways to prevent, detect, and treat certain types of cancer. But the battle isn't over: cancer remains the nation's number two killer and one of our country's most critical health care concerns. In 2015 more than 1.6 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer and more than 589,000 will die from this disease. Moreover, the number of Americans diagnosed with cancer, particularly among the aging Baby Boomer population, is expected to grow dramatically over the next decade with more than 2.1 million cancer diagnoses projected annually by 2025.

In recent years, federal appropriations to support biomedical research have decreased. Accounting for inflation, NIH's annual budget has dropped 24 percent (\$6.5 billion) since 2003 and NCI's budget has decreased by more than 26 percent (\$1.2 billion). A decade ago, NIH funded nearly one out of three grant applications. However in FY 2014 that number dropped to nearly one in six.

In order to accelerate progress in the fight against cancer, the availability of funding resources must keep up with the scientific opportunities – such as more precise and personalized cancer therapies – that are now within our reach. The American Cures Act would help to achieve this goal by establishing a more reliable growth rate for federal appropriations allocated to the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Defense Health Program, and the Veterans Medical and Prosthetics Research Program.

OVAC commends your efforts to expand and sustain federal investment in biomedical research and thanks you for your leadership on this vital issue. We stand ready to work with you to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

Action to Cure Kidney Cancer  
Alliance for Prostate Cancer Prevention  
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 for Radiation Oncology  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Bladder Cancer Action 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  
LIVESTRONG Foundation  
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  
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