



September 12, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chair Leahy, Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

As members of One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a broad coalition of public interest groups representing millions of cancer patients, researchers, providers, survivors and their families, we write regarding funding for cancer research and prevention programs in HR 6157, the Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019.

Thanks to your leadership, significant progress has been made during the past three years to reduce the loss of purchasing power experienced by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) since FY 2003, the end of the five-year doubling of NIH. However, NIH funding still lags behind what it would have been if funding had simply kept up with biomedical inflation.

To continue the progress that has led to medical breakthroughs for treatment and therapies for millions of cancer patients, NIH and NCI need an increased, sustainable federal investment. OVAC therefore believes that Congress should approve at least a \$2 billion increase for NIH, and \$6.147 billion total for NCI, as reflected in the Senate-passed HR 6157.

OVAC is concerned that funding for cancer prevention and control programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has basically remained flat since FY 2010. Accordingly, we requested increases for each of those programs in FY 2019. We ask that, at a minimum, conferees approve the increase of \$2 million for cancer registries and the \$875,000 increase for skin cancer programs in the Senate-passed bill.

Additionally, oncology nurses are on the front lines when it comes to providing quality cancer care, and contribute significantly to cancer research. OVAC supports the Senate level of \$249 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration's nurse training programs.

Thank you again for your continued leadership on funding issues important in the fight against cancer. OVAC urges Congress to sustain our nation's commitment to cancer research and prevention by increasing support for these efforts and passing the Conference Report for HR 6157 before the end of the fiscal year.

Sincerely,

Action to Cure Kidney Cancer
Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy
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
American Urological Association
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network
Cancer Support Community
Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer
Research
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy
Deadliest Cancers Coalition
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 Coalition Caucus
International Myeloma Foundation
Kidney Cancer Action Network
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

The Life Raft Group
LIVESTRONG Foundation
Lung Cancer Alliance
LUNgevity Foundation
Malecare
Men's Health Network
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation
The MPN Research Foundation
National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer
Coalitions
National Association of Chronic Disease
Directors
National Brain Tumor Society
National Cancer Registrars Association
Oncology Nursing Society
Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition
Prevent 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
Triage Cancer
Us TOO International
ZERO - The End of Prostate Cancer