



March 24, 2015

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Vice Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Rogers and Cochran and Ranking Members Mikulski and Lowey:

We are writing as members of One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a collaboration of public interest groups representing millions of Americans impacted by cancer - including researchers, physicians, pharmacists and nurses, patients, survivors, and their loved ones - to ask that you reject the proposed cuts to cancer prevention and early detection programs included in the President's FY 2016 budget. The cuts included in the President's budget would drastically reduce funding to the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) and the Colorectal Cancer Control Program (CRCCP), and would eliminate entirely prostate cancer activities at the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

These programs play an indispensable role in the prevention, detection, and treatment of cancer. In other words, they save lives. Approximately 50 percent of cancer deaths can be prevented through education and early screening, both of which are supported by these CDC programs. Effective screenings are available for cancers of the colon and rectum, breast, cervix, and lung. Moreover, screening for colorectal and cervical cancers can identify precancerous abnormalities, resulting in their removal and averting cancer altogether.

Yet, many Americans do not have access to these lifesaving tests. For uninsured adults, less than 17 percent of women over the age of 40 had a mammogram in the past year and less than 19 percent of men and women over the age of 50 had a recent colorectal cancer screening. The CDC's cancer prevention and control programs help to amend these problems by providing vital

resources to every state for cancer monitoring, cancer screening programs, and cancer awareness initiatives.

More specifically, the NBCCEDP provides lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings to millions of women. In fact, since its inception, the NBCCEDP has provided over 11.6 million screening exams to more than 4.6 million women, detecting more than 64,718 breast cancers, 3,500 cervical cancers and 167,000 premalignant cervical lesions. Likewise, largely due to programs like the CRCCP, colorectal cancer incidence rates have dropped 30 percent in the U.S. among adults 50 and older.

However, despite these great advances, breast cancer remains the second leading cause of cancer death among women, colorectal cancer remains the second leading cause of cancer deaths when men and women are combined, and prostate cancer accounts for 33 percent of all cancer cases in men. Adequate funding for the CDC cancer programs in FY 2016 will allow half a million women to be screened for breast and cervical cancer, and ensure tens of thousands of men and women get access to colorectal cancer screening.

Finally, prostate cancer strikes 1 in 6 men and accounts for 33 percent of all cancer cases. More than 220,000 men will be newly diagnosed with prostate cancer this year alone, and more than 27,500 will die from it. CDC-supported cancer programs improve the health of all Americans by leveraging strong partnerships with state and local agencies, many of which will be forced to terminate their prostate cancer control programs if federal funding is lost. Continued funding for this program will enhance prostate cancer data in cancer registries, especially information about the stage of disease at the time of diagnosis, quality of care, and the race and ethnicity of men with prostate cancer. CDC funding for prostate cancer has also supported critical research on the patient-provider dialogue, as well as the development and dissemination of materials to ensure men and their healthcare providers make the most informed decisions possible in their specific circumstances. The need for these resources is stronger than ever as men weigh screening decisions and an increasing number of treatment options.

Clearly, now is not the time to cut or reduce funding to programs like the NBCCEDP, the CRCCP, and the CDC's prostate cancer work. For FY 2016, OVAC urges Congress to reject the proposed cuts in the President's budget and to support the following funding recommendation: \$513 million for the CDC cancer programs, including \$275 million to the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program and \$70 million to the Colorectal Cancer Control Program and \$35 million for prostate cancer control.

The members of OVAC are confident that our country's leaders understand the importance and high priority of these lifesaving programs in the fight against cancer. Thank you for your consideration of this request; we stand ready to support your efforts.

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 Sexual Health Association
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society for Radiation 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
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 Cervical Cancer Coalition
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