



March 31, 2011

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C., 20510

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

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

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leaders Pelosi, Reid, and McConnell:

As members of One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a coalition of public interest groups representing the millions of cancer researchers, patients, survivors and their families throughout the nation, we respectfully urge you to work together to restore the funding that was cut in H.R. 1 for programs that have been successful in the fight against cancer.

OVAC recognizes that Congress has a difficult task in balancing priorities within the budget. However, cuts to cancer research and prevention programs would squander the progress made during the past few years, causing lasting harm to cancer patients and their families.

As recent news reports have highlighted, nearly 1 in 20 Americans is now a cancer survivor. The increase in the number of people surviving a cancer diagnosis is the result of Congress' past support for research and prevention. The funding cuts included in HR 1 put this progress at risk. Ongoing research projects will be terminated and prevention programs will be scaled back significantly if these cuts are enacted.

Specifically, the cuts in H.R. 1 would force the National Institutes of Health eliminate at least 40 phase III cancer clinical trials, fully one-third of all phase III trials open to cancer patients. Additionally, many of the most promising studies that utilize the mapping of the human genome risk being halted as well.

Sixty percent of cancer deaths today could be prevented by simply doing what we already know. The proposed cuts to the Centers for Disease Control budget would result in fewer people having access to proven screening programs and evidence-based educational materials. These cuts would also have an impact on every state's ability to provide services that help cancer patients and their families.

The news that there are now nearly 12 million cancer survivors living in the United States is confirmation of the benefits of federal support for research and prevention. However, for too many cancer patients, survivors, and their loved ones, our progress against certain cancers has been incremental at best. For these reasons, OVAC strongly encourages Congress to work together to provide the necessary funding to help prevent those cancers for which we have the ability to detect early, and to support research for those cancers in which we don't.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Prostate Cancer Prevention  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Association for Cancer Research  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Surgeons  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network  
Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research  
Colon Cancer Alliance  
CureSearch National Childhood Cancer Foundation  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
Friends of Cancer Research  
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus  
International Myeloma Foundation  
LIVESTRONG  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Malecare Prostate Cancer Support  
Melanoma Research Foundation  
Men's Health Network  
National Alliance for Hispanic Health  
National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer Coalitions  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
National Cervical Cancer Coalition/HPV Cancer Coalition  
National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)  
National Ovarian Cancer Coalition  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
Nevada Cancer Institute  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition

Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Sarcoma Foundation of America  
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists  
Susan G. Komen for the Cure Advocacy Alliance  
Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network  
ZERO- The Project to End Prostate Cancer