



March 19, 2012

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks  
Ranking Democrat  
Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Denny Rehberg  
Chairman  
Labor, Health and Human Services  
Education and Related Agencies  
Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Democrat  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Representative Dicks, Chairman Rehberg and Representative DeLauro:

As members of One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a coalition of public interest groups representing millions of cancer researchers, patients, survivors and their families throughout the nation, we urge you to maintain the structure and essential funding support for cancer prevention and control programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

### **CDC Cancer Programs - Front Line Defender Against Cancer Death and Cost**

Collectively, the CDC cancer programs are the cornerstone of our country's cancer prevention efforts. Cancer takes the lives of 1,500 Americans each day. CDC is a leader in cancer prevention and control in the United States and is responsible for developing and implementing effective cancer prevention and control practices at the national and local level. Cuts to these programs will hinder the progress made in reducing both cancer incidence and mortality. We recognize that you have a difficult task in balancing priorities for fiscal year 2013. However, we ask that you protect funding for cancer programs that have a proven record of success for early detection, prevention, education, awareness, research, and data collection.

### **To Be Effective CDC Cancer Programs Must Remain *Separate***

We also ask that you maintain all the cancer prevention as a distinct and separate categorical budget lines within the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, and they not be included as part of any broader consolidation. This must be done to ensure cancer prevention efforts are not diluted and transparency is maintained. The President's proposal to merge the state-based comprehensive cancer programs within an unrelated chronic disease grant program would severely reduce the success of cancer prevention and control programs at CDC. The budget

proposal would also consolidate the remaining seven cancer programs into a single funding line. These proposals would obscure the urgency of cancer efforts and decrease efficiency among the cancer programs. As a matter of good governance, the proposed changes would reduce transparency and predictability of agency decisions about how much money would be available to states for specific cancer control programs.

### **CDC Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Programs – A Top Weapon for Fighting Cancer**

Sixty percent of cancer deaths today could be prevented by simply doing what we already know. Any further funding cuts or attempts to consolidate the cancer programs would result in fewer people having access to proven evidence-based educational materials and screening programs. Programs such as the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program and the Colorectal Cancer Control Program increase access and improve the quality of breast and cervical, colorectal cancer screening, diagnostic care, case management, and treatment referrals nationwide. State breast and cervical cancer programs alone have saved thousands of lives by providing low-income and uninsured individuals access to screening and follow-up care they need to continue living healthy lives.

### **CDC Comprehensive Cancer Control Programs – Critical for Building a Cancer Strategy at the Local Level**

A unified front against cancer is needed to tackle major issues cancer patients and families encounter including access to quality prevention and treatment, survivorship and quality of life. CDC supports state based comprehensive cancer control programs that have successfully reached millions of Americans, created valuable new partnerships, improved access to cancer treatment and performed critical research on cancer prevention and quality of life. The inclusion of the comprehensive control initiative as part of an effort to consolidate unrelated chronic disease programs risks fracturing what is an otherwise well-coordinated cancer control effort at the state and local levels.

### **CDC Cancer Statistics - Essential Element of a National Cancer Program**

The National Program of Cancer Registries serves as the foundation for surveillance of cancer incidence and mortality across the country. Data collected under this program helps public health professionals at every level of government determine and monitor cancer trends, prioritize resources and advance research.

### **CDC Cancer Education and Outreach - Cost Effective Cancer Control**

Lastly, CDC funding for nationwide outreach and education programs is also critical to our cancer prevention efforts. This funding supports public awareness campaigns, the development of culturally appropriate materials, as well as educational resources on a range of topics for breast, gynecologic, ovarian, blood, skin and prostate cancer.

As you develop a FY 2013 Labor-HHS appropriations bill, **we ask that the CDC cancer programs be kept as distinct categorical budget lines and that they are funded at least at their FY 2010 levels.** The members of OVAC thank you for your consideration of this request and stand ready to support your efforts on behalf of these programs.

Sincerely,

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 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  
CureSearch for Children's Cancer  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
Friends of Cancer Research  
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus  
International Myeloma Foundation  
LIVESTRONG  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Malecare Prostate Cancer Support  
Men's Health Network  
National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer Coalitions  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
National Brain Tumor Society  
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  
Preventing Colorectal Cancer  
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