



November 24, 2020

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Chairman Blunt, Ranking Members Cole and Murray:

For over 20 years, One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC) has united the nation's cancer community to advocate for long-term, sustained funding increases for cancer research and prevention. We channel the passions of millions of Americans who have been affected by cancer.

As you work to finalize the FY 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, the OVAC coalition urges you to support at least **\$43.68 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and \$6.72 billion for the National Cancer Institute (NCI)** in any final FY 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) Appropriations bill. Additionally, we urge you to provide at least **\$559 million**, OVAC's recommended level for **cancer programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**. We also urge you to provide at least **\$15.5 billion in emergency supplemental funding to the NIH** as suggested by NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins during recent Senate testimony. This emergency funding will be used to ensure that biomedical research and clinical trials impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic can be restarted when safe to do so and for research related to COVID-19.

There is much to celebrate in the fight against cancer. The U.S. cancer death rate declined by 29 percent from 1991 to 2017, including a 2.2 percent drop from 2016 to 2017, the largest single-

year drop in cancer mortality ever reported. Yet cancer is still the nation's second-leading cause of death, with many still not benefiting from that progress. In 2020, over 1.8 million Americans will be diagnosed and more than 600,000 will die from cancer. Meanwhile, COVID-19 has stalled cancer research and clinical trials, forced many Americans to delay or cancel regular cancer screenings, and interrupted treatment for patients. Because of the pandemic, death rates from cancer could rise for the first time since 1991.

As the nation's population ages overall, so, too, the number of people diagnosed with cancer will increase as well – from an estimated 1.7 million in 2019 to 2.1 million in 2030. We are therefore grateful for the bipartisan support for year to year, sustained funding increases at the NIH and NCI. NCI is experiencing a demand for research funding that is far beyond that of any other Institute or Center (IC) at NIH and we are grateful for the bipartisan attention this issue has garnered in Congress. We believe that any final funding package should again address this issue as outlined in the Senate Chairman's mark.

The COVID-19 pandemic is bringing into sharp relief the importance of cancer screening and prevention programs at the CDC. The pandemic has put a halt to many life-saving cancer screenings. The nation must continue to invest in successful CDC programs that ensure people have options for cancer screening regardless of income or insurance status. It is crucial to fully fund these programs to ensure all Americans can benefit from early identification of treatable cancers. We therefore urge Congress to fully fund these programs in FY 2021 at the level recommended by OVAC of \$559 million.

Once again, thank you for your continued leadership on funding issues important in the fight against cancer. Funding for cancer research and prevention must continue to be top budget priorities in order to increase the pace of progress in the fight against cancer. OVAC once again calls on Congress to sustain our nation's commitment to cancer research and prevention by increasing support for these efforts.

Please contact OVAC Chair Caroline Powers at [Caroline.Powers@cancer.org](mailto:Caroline.Powers@cancer.org) with any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Association for Cancer Research  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer  
American Institute for Cancer Research  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Urological Association  
Association for Clinical Oncology  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network  
Cancer Support Community  
Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research

Children's Cancer Cause  
Deadliest Cancers Coalition  
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer  
Dermatology Nurses' Association  
Esophageal Cancer Action Network  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
Friends of Cancer Research  
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer  
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association  
Intercultural Cancer Council Coalition  
International Myeloma Foundation  
KidneyCAN  
LIVESTRONG Foundation  
LUNGevity Foundation  
Men's Health Network  
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation  
National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer Coalitions  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
National Brain Tumor Society  
National Cancer Registrars Association  
North American Association of Central Cancer Registries, Inc. (NAACCR)  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition  
Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Prostate 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  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
The Life Raft Group  
Triage Cancer  
Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network  
ZERO - The End of Prostate Cancer