



October XX, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Pelosi and Minority Leader Schumer:

As members of One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a coalition of public interest groups representing millions of cancer researchers, patients, survivors and their families, we urge you to work together to raise the FY 2018 budget caps and enact spending bills that increase funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Cancer Prevention and Control programs. The need for cancer research, treatment, prevention and detection transcends politics, and we hope that both parties will come together this fall to adopt a budget deal that supports these causes.

The more than 200 diseases that we call “cancer” take a tremendous toll on our nation. It is estimated that almost 1.7 million people in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer this year. Additionally, more than 600,000 Americans will die from the disease in 2017, which translates to more than 1,640 people a day. Annual cancer incidence rates are also projected to increase by 31 percent over the next decade, growing to 2.1 million people diagnosed in 2025. Recent estimates also show that cancer costs the U.S. economy more than \$216 billion annually in direct treatment costs and lost productivity, a number that will increase dramatically as incidence rates climb.

Investments in cancer research and prevention are the keys to reversing this trend. As members of OVAC, we are grateful for the leadership you have shown by supporting recent increases in NIH and cancer research funding, including passage of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act last year. However, we are concerned that the current discretionary budget caps will hinder American medical breakthroughs, including the field of cancer research, and jeopardize our competitiveness in the global arena, to the detriment of both business innovation and the lives of our citizens. A bipartisan agreement to lift the budget caps will help provide the NIH and CDC with greater resources to pursue life-saving advances in cancer research and prevention.

Thank you for your continued efforts in the fight against cancer, and do not hesitate to reach out to us if we may be of assistance during this process.

Sincerely,

Action to Cure Kidney Cancer  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Association for Cancer Research  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American College of Surgeons  
American Sexual Health Association  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Urological Association  
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network  
Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research  
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy  
Dermatology Nurses' Association  
Esophageal Cancer Action Network  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
Friends of Cancer Research  
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association  
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus  
**LIVESTRONG** Foundation  
LUNGevity Foundation  
Men's Health Network  
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
National Brain Tumor Society  
National Cervical Cancer Coalition  
National Coalition for Cancer Research  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Prostate Conditions Education Council  
St. Baldrick's Foundation  
Susan G. Komen Advocacy Alliance  
Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network  
ZERO, The End of Prostate Cancer