



September 12, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chair Leahy, Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

As members of One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a broad coalition of public interest groups representing millions of cancer patients, researchers, providers, survivors and their families, we write regarding funding for cancer research and prevention programs in HR 6157, the Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019.

Thanks to your leadership, significant progress has been made during the past three years to reduce the loss of purchasing power experienced by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) since FY 2003, the end of the five-year doubling of NIH. However, NIH funding still lags behind what it would have been if funding had simply kept up with biomedical inflation.

To continue the progress that has led to medical breakthroughs for treatment and therapies for millions of cancer patients, NIH and NCI need an increased, sustainable federal investment. OVAC therefore believes that Congress should approve at least a \$2 billion increase for NIH, and \$6.147 billion total for NCI, as reflected in the Senate-passed HR 6157.

OVAC is concerned that funding for cancer prevention and control programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has basically remained flat since FY 2010. Accordingly, we requested increases for each of those programs in FY 2019. We ask that, at a minimum, conferees approve the increase of \$2 million for cancer registries and the \$875,000 increase for skin cancer programs in the Senate-passed bill.

Additionally, oncology nurses are on the front lines when it comes to providing quality cancer care, and contribute significantly to cancer research. OVAC supports the Senate level of \$249 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration's nurse training programs.

Thank you again for your continued leadership on funding issues important in the fight against cancer. OVAC urges Congress to sustain our nation's commitment to cancer research and prevention by increasing support for these efforts and passing the Conference Report for HR 6157 before the end of the fiscal year.

Sincerely,

Action to Cure Kidney Cancer  
Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy  
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 for Radiation Oncology  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Urological Association  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network  
Cancer Support Community  
Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer  
Research  
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy  
Deadliest Cancers Coalition  
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach  
Cancer  
Dermatology Nurses' Association  
Esophageal Cancer Action Network  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
Friends of Cancer Research  
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association  
Intercultural Cancer Coalition Caucus  
International Myeloma Foundation  
Kidney Cancer Action Network  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

The Life Raft Group  
LIVESTRONG Foundation  
Lung Cancer Alliance  
LUNgevity Foundation  
Malecare  
Men's Health Network  
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation  
The MPN Research Foundation  
National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer  
Coalitions  
National Association of Chronic Disease  
Directors  
National Brain Tumor Society  
National Cancer Registrars Association  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition  
Prevent 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  
Triage Cancer  
Us TOO International  
ZERO - The End of Prostate Cancer