



January 30, 2024

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Granger, Chair Murray, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Vice Chair Collins:

As members of One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a broad coalition of over 50 public interest groups representing millions of cancer patients, researchers, providers, survivors, and their families, we urge you to prioritize funding for cancer research and prevention during your final negotiations for the Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations bill. We write to request that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) receive no less than \$47.7 billion, including \$7.38 billion for the National Cancer Institute (NCI), plus \$1.5 billion for the Advanced Research Program Agency for Health (ARPA-H). These amounts, which were recommended in S. 2624, the bipartisan Senate bill, will help ensure continued progress in cancer research and prevention. We also urge an increase in funding for Division of Cancer Prevention and Control Programs (DCPC) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Cancer is relentless and impacts millions of Americans. In 2024, the projected number of new cancer diagnoses in the United States will top two million—equivalent to about 5,480 diagnoses each day. In just this year alone, 611,720 cancer deaths are projected to occur in the United States, corresponding to approximately 1,680 deaths per day.¹

The increases provided for NIH and NCI in the bipartisan Senate bill will help advance new breakthroughs and cures, develop the next generation of researchers and spur local and regional economic growth and global competitiveness.

¹ American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2024. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2024.

NIH-supported research in nearly every congressional district nationwide is one of the country's greatest assets in combatting debilitating health challenges that affect patients, families, and communities from urban centers to rural frontiers.

The bill approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee continues Congress's longstanding bipartisan commitment to medical research. Particularly in the context of the current constrained fiscal environment, we are grateful that S. 2624 invests in the NIH and NCI by reversing scheduled cuts to funding from the 21st Century Cures Act, and that funding for ARPA-H supplements NIH's base. Even at the Senate Committee-approved funding level, promising research proposals will far exceed the resources available to support such important work. This is especially the case for the NCI, where the growth of RO1 applications over the last 10 years is almost 3 times that of the rest of NIH combined.²

While research is critical, so is funding for cancer prevention, screening and early detection, which saves lives and money. The CDC's cancer programs play an indispensable role in the prevention, detection and treatment of cancer. Approximately 45% of cancer deaths can be prevented and the substantial cost of the treatment of advanced disease could be reduced through the use of existing evidence-based prevention and early detection strategies, many of which are supported by the CDC's DCPC.³

We can't afford to lose ground in the fight to end cancer as we know it. OVAC members urge you to take a bipartisan approach to completing FY 2024 appropriations in a timely manner and with robust investment in the NIH, NCI and CDC's Cancer Prevention and Control Programs.

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 Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Urological Association
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network
Brem Foundation to Defeat Breast Cancer
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

² National Cancer Institute. FY2025 Professional Judgment Budget Proposal.

³ American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2024. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2024.

Go2 Foundation for Lung Cancer
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
Intercultural Cancer Council Coalition
International Myeloma Foundation
Kidney Cancer Action Network
Life Raft Group
LIVESTRONG Foundation
LUNGeivity Foundation
Melanoma Research 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.
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
Stomach Cancer Action Network
Susan G. Komen
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Triage Cancer
ZERO - The End of Prostate Cance

cc: The Honorable Robert Aderholt
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito