



November 1, 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 21st 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
Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy
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 Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
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
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 Council Caucus
International Myeloma Foundation
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
The Life Raft Group
LIVESTRONG Foundation
LUNGeivity Foundation
Malecare Prostate Cancer Support
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 Inc.
National Cervical Cancer Coalition
National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Oncology Nursing Society
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance

Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN)

Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition

Prevent Cancer Foundation

Preventing Colorectal Cancer

Sarcoma Foundation of America

Society of Gynecological Oncology

St. Baldrick's Foundation

Susan G. Komen

Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network

Zero – The Project to End Prostate Cancer