

May 31, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Eric Cantor  
Majority Leader  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Majority Whip  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable John Cornyn  
Minority Whip  
United States Senate

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Vice-Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Minority Whip  
United States Senate

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Majority Whip  
United States Senate

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate

Dear House and Senate Leaders:

In recognition of May as National Cancer Research Month, we the undersigned organizations dedicated to the conquest of all forms of cancer, strongly urge you to make cancer research and biomedical science a national priority by steadily increasing our federal investment in the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Strong support for NIH is essential if we are to conquer the devastating collection of the more than 200

diseases we call cancer, grow our nation's economy, and remain at the forefront of medical research globally.

Over the past few decades, we have made significant progress against some forms of cancer, which is perhaps best demonstrated by the following statistics:

- Today, more than 68 percent of adults are living five years or more after their initial diagnosis, up from 50 percent in 1975.
- The five-year survival rate for all childhood cancers combined increased from 58 percent in 1975–77 to more than 80 percent in 2013.
- Today, there are nearly 14 million cancer survivors living in the United States, 15 percent of whom were diagnosed 20 or more years ago.

In recent years, the acceleration in the rate of research advances against many forms of cancer has been remarkable. Major discoveries about the fundamental biology of many cancers are now beginning to be translated into targeted therapies against some specific cancers. Consider that in the past 18 months alone the Food and Drug Administration has approved:

- A new drug for treating precancerous lesions of the skin
- 11 new drugs for treating a variety of types of cancer, of which 2 are entirely new classes of drugs
- 7 new uses for previously approved cancer drugs

The unprecedented progress we have achieved against many forms of cancer is the result of extraordinary advances in research, combined with visionary public health policy and the passionate work of countless survivors and patient advocates. Sustaining our country's steadfast commitment to the NIH will result in continued improvements to the entire spectrum of patient care, from cancer prevention, early detection, and diagnosis, to treatment and long-term survivorship.

While we are making tremendous progress in many areas, cancer remains a formidable opponent. Approximately 580,000 people will die this year in U.S. from the disease, which is almost 1,600 people each day. In fact, more than 1.6 million Americans are diagnosed annually, and 1 in every 3 women and 1 in every 2 men will likely develop cancer in their lifetimes. There also remain a number of recalcitrant cancers, including pancreatic, liver and lung cancers, for which the mortality rate is extraordinarily high and 5-year survival rates are typically less than 50 percent. Further, racial and ethnic minorities, as well as low-income and elderly populations, continue to suffer disproportionately in cancer incidence, prevalence, and mortality.

Because of the steady increase in cancer incidence rates, which is mainly due to our increasingly aging population, and the enormous complexity of many cancers, continuing and strengthening our nation's commitment to cancer research and biomedical science is more critical now than ever. The investments made in cancer research and biomedical science, particularly those supported by public funds through the NIH, will play a vital role in addressing the current challenges in cancer, while at the same time curbing the overall annual costs of this devastating disease—which exceeded \$263 billion in 2010.

Therefore, as you begin to craft the fiscal year (FY) 2014 appropriations bills and seek to address the nation's larger fiscal challenges, including the devastating effects of sequestration, we respectfully request that you acknowledge the importance of federal funding for cancer research and biomedical science by providing at least \$32 billion for the NIH in FY 2014.

This level of funding will help mitigate the past decade of essentially flat budgets for NIH. When factoring in the rate of biomedical inflation, the agency has lost nearly 20 percent of its ability to fund

life-saving research, or roughly \$6 billion. Furthermore, the NIH budget sustained a 5.1 percent cut through sequestration earlier this year.

However, and most importantly, a strong commitment to NIH will lead to more progress, more hope, and more lives saved, which is why millions of people who have faced a cancer diagnosis and their loved ones are relying on your support to conquer this awful disease.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

American Association for Cancer Research

Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma Research Foundation

American Academy of Dermatology Association

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American College of Gastroenterology

American Gastroenterological Association

American Sexual Health Association

American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

American Society for Radiation Oncology

American Society of Clinical Oncology

American Society of Hematology

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Association of American Cancer Institutes

Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Center

Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Cancer Research Institute

Cancer Support Community

Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research  
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy  
Chordoma Foundation  
City of Hope Cancer Center  
Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Institute  
Coalition of Cancer Cooperative Groups  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute  
Deadly Cancer Coalition  
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Duke Cancer Institute  
Edith Sanford Breast Cancer Foundation  
Esophageal Cancer Action Network  
The EVAN Foundation  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
Friends of Cancer Research  
Georgetown University Medical Center Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
The Hepatitis Foundation International  
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association  
Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center at Columbia University  
Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah  
Imerman Angels  
International Cancer Advocacy Network  
International Myeloma Foundation  
James Graham Brown Cancer Center at the University of Louisville

Kidney Cancer Association  
Kure It Cancer Research  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
LIVESTRONG Foundation  
Lung Cancer Alliance  
Lung Cancer Circle of Hope  
LUNGevity  
Lymphoma Research Foundation  
Malecare Cancer Support  
Marlene and Stewart Greenbaum Cancer Center at the University of Maryland  
Melanoma Research Alliance  
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center  
Men's Health Network  
Moffitt Cancer Center  
National Brain Tumor Society  
National Cervical Cancer Association  
National Coalition for Cancer Research  
National Ovarian Cancer Coalition  
NYU Cancer Institute  
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center—James Cancer Hospital  
Oncology Nursing Society  
One Voice Against Cancer Coalition  
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Personalized Medicine Coalition  
Prevent Cancer Foundation

Prostate Cancer Foundation  
Research!America  
Roswell Park Cancer Institute  
Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute at Cedars Sinai Medical Center  
Sarcoma Foundation of America  
Seattle Cancer Care Alliance  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital  
The George Washington Cancer Institute  
ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivor's Association  
Uniting Against Lung Cancer  
The University of Chicago Comprehensive Cancer Center  
University of Colorado Cancer Center  
University of Kansas Cancer Center  
University of Maryland Medical System  
University of New Mexico Cancer Center  
University of North Carolina Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center  
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center  
University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center  
Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University  
The Wistar Institute Cancer Center  
Yes! Beat Liver Tumors