



March 16, 2007

The Honorable John Spratt, Chairman  
Budget Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt:

One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a collaboration of nearly 40 organizations representing millions of Americans affected by cancer, urges you to adopt a Congressional Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 that provides the necessary resources to continue and expand upon the progress we have made in the fight against cancer.

Prior investments in cancer research, education, prevention, awareness, treatment, and control as well as nursing education and workforce programs at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) have brought real progress in the fight against cancer. Between 2002-2003, the actual number of Americans dying from cancer dropped for the first time on record. From 2003-2004, the number of cancer deaths dropped again and at a more dramatic rate.

However, for too many people and many of the deadliest cancers, this progress has been incremental, at best. For example, lung and pancreatic cancer, the 1st and 4th leading causes of cancer related deaths, are two examples of cancers for which survival rates have not substantially improved. In 1975, the five year survival rates for lung and pancreatic cancer were 13% and 2%. Twenty-five years later, survival rates are still woefully low at 16% and 5%. In fact, for almost every cancer, there are significant areas of research that are critical to pursue.

Oncology nurses play a critical role in cancer research and delivery of care. Given the current and expected nursing shortage, without adequate federal resources our nation will not have the nursing workforce necessary to meet the needs of cancer patients.

We need your leadership. Cancer still strikes one out of every two men and one out of every three women. This year alone, cancer will claim the lives of more than 559,000 Americans, and will cost our nation \$206 billion in lost productivity, human capital, and increased direct medical costs.

We appreciate that our nation faces many fiscal challenges; however, we are concerned that without sustained commitment and the additional resources necessary in the FY 2008 Budget

Resolution to build our efforts in the fight against cancer we will be unable to build upon the progress we have made and expand to those who have been left behind by recent advances. OVAC stands ready to work with you to ensure that progress occurs and that the war on cancer is won.

Please do not hesitate to contact Daniel E. Smith of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and Chair of the OVAC coalition at (202) 661-5701 regarding how we can work together on the FY 2008 budget so that we can achieve our mutual goal.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Prostate Cancer Prevention (APCaP)  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)  
American College of Surgeons  
American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology  
Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI)  
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN)  
C3: Colorectal Cancer Coalition  
Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation  
Colon Cancer Alliance  
Friends of Cancer Research  
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus  
International Myeloma Foundation  
Kidney Cancer Association  
Lance Armstrong Foundation  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Malecare Prostate Cancer Support  
Men's Health Network  
National Alliance for Hispanic Health  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD)  
National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)  
National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA)  
National Prostate Cancer Coalition  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN)  
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition  
Sarcoma Foundation of America  
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists  
Us TOO! Prostate Cancer Education & Support