



January 24, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a collaboration of nearly 40 organizations representing millions of Americans affected by cancer, was founded seven years ago to unify the public health community and assist the White House and Congress in determining the annual funding levels necessary to defeat cancer. Your recent visit to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and your emphasis on cancer prevention in your remarks were important steps toward a renewed focus on winning the fight against cancer. Now these promises must be fulfilled with the allocation of appropriate resources needed to win this fight.

Prior investments in cancer research, education, prevention, awareness, treatment, and control combined with the nursing education and workforce programs at the National Institutes of Health, 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. These previous investments made possible the historic announcement you made last week about the second consecutive year of declining deaths from cancer.

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.

Cancer still strikes one out of every two men and one out of every three women, and this year alone, cancer will claim the lives of more than 550,000 Americans. In addition to this devastating human toll, cancer cost our nation \$206 billion in lost productivity, human capital, and increased direct medical costs in 2006. Today more than ever we need your leadership.

For FY 2008, OVAC urges you to support the following funding recommendations.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

\$32.83 billion (+\$2.5 billion/8% over FY 2007)*

**assumes FY 2007 funding will occur at authorized level of \$30,331 billion (a 7% increase over FY 2006).*

National Cancer Institute (NCI)

*Support the NCI Professional Judgment budget of \$5.8 billion, but at a minimum, provide \$5.5 billion (+\$410 million/8% over FY 2007)** reflecting an increase consistent with the authorized increase for NIH.*

***assumes the FY 2007 funding will reflect a 7% over FY 2006 (\$5.129) consistent with the authorized increase for NIH.*

National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD)

*\$200 million (+\$4.6 million/2.35% over FY 2006)****

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Cancer Prevention and Control (CDC)

*\$435.5 million (+\$127.59 million/ 38.84% over FY 2006)****

- **National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program: \$50 million (+\$33.06 million)**
- **National Program of Cancer Registries: \$65 million (+\$16.89 million)**
- **National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program: \$250 million (+\$47.57 million)**
- **Colorectal Cancer Screening, Education & Outreach Initiative: \$25 million (+\$10.52 million)**
- **National Skin Cancer Prevention Education Program: \$5 million over five years**
- **Prostate Cancer Control Initiatives: \$25 million (+11.07 million)**
- **Ovarian Cancer Control Initiatives: \$10 million (+\$5.48 million)**
- **Geraldine Ferraro Blood Cancer Program: \$5.5 million (+\$0.96 million)**

Health Resources and Services Administration, Nursing Workforce Programs

*At least \$175 million (+\$25.32 million/16.92% over FY 2006)****

We appreciate that our nation faces many fiscal challenges; however, we are concerned that without an increased commitment in your FY 2008 budget, this progress could begin to lose momentum. OVAC stands ready to work with you and with Congress to ensure that progress continues until the war on cancer is won.

Please do not hesitate to contact Dan Smith of the American Cancer Society 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
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Association for Cancer Research
American Cancer Society
American College of Surgeons
American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology
Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association of American Cancer Institutes

Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network
Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation
C3: Colorectal Cancer Coalition
Colon Cancer Alliance
Friends of Cancer Research
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus
International Myeloma Foundation
Kidney Cancer Association
Lance Armstrong Foundation
Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
Malecare Prostate Cancer Support
Melanoma Research Foundation
Men's Health Network
National Alliance for Hispanic Health
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)
National Foundation for Cancer Research
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
Society of Surgical Oncology
Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network

cc: White House Office of Legislative Affairs

***At the time of this writing, FY 2007 appropriations have not been finalized. Therefore, assumptions about funding increases are based on the FY 2006 appropriated levels.