

National Cancer Fund

Establishing a dedicated source of funds to supplement and accelerate cancer research and control



This year, more than 1.4 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer. More than 565,000 will die from the disease.

Despite the best efforts of cancer's champions in Congress, the fight against cancer continues to be undermined by the ever present competition for limited federal funding support. Even after accounting for much-needed and well-appreciated increases for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as proposed by the House and Senate committees, research funding will still fail to keep pace with inflation in FY 09.

The situation with respect to funding for the cancer prevention and early detection and control programs run by the Centers for Disease Control is even more difficult. Nearly all of these programs are scheduled for flat-funding in FY 09. For the first time since its inception, the number of women served by the CDC's life-saving National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program went down last year due to insufficient funding support.

As a nation, we have made steady progress in the fight against cancer over the past two decades because of the investments made by the federal government in cancer research and control. That progress is now jeopardized because of our inability to devote the needed funding resources to the fight.

That is why the organizations of One Voice Against Cancer support creation of a National Cancer Fund capitalized by dedicated sources of funding to supplement existing appropriations for the fight against cancer. Under this concept, the Fund would acquire new funding from one or more sources and Congress would appropriate the new money to pay for innovative and high impact cancer projects, including a focus on underserved populations. A primary source could be an increase in the federal tobacco tax, which according to the Congressional Budget Office, could generate \$7 billion per year in new money by raising the current tax to one dollar per pack. Other potential sources should be examined further by public finance experts.

Strong Public Support for a National Cancer Fund

- According to an April 2008, Lake Research Partners nationwide poll, 69 percent of Americans believe cancer funding should be increased and 87 percent support creation of a special cancer fund to pay for it. 79 percent supported the sale of cancer bonds and 73 percent supported an increase in the federal tobacco tax to raise the needed funds.
- Three in four voters (76 percent) view early detection, research and cancer control programs as urgent needs in the fight against cancer – particularly research to discover prevention and early detection tools that do not yet exist for the most deadly cancers. Survey participants responded that this is extremely or very urgent in the fight against cancer.
- Six in ten voters (60 percent) said they would be more likely to support an elected official for re-election if the official voted to create the cancer fund.

**For More Information Visit
www.ovaonline.org**

How a National Cancer Fund Would Benefit the War on Cancer

- Expand access to health care for underserved and underinsured populations.
- Conduct new research to discover prevention and early detection tools that we don't have yet for the most deadly cancers, including, but not limited to, pancreatic, ovarian and lung cancers.
- Increased study of the long-term effects of cancer treatment on cancer survivors and the challenges associated with access to quality follow up care.
- Expand breast and cervical cancer early detection and treatment programs to cover screening and treatment for women who do not have access to health care.
- Expand colorectal cancer early detection and treatment programs to cover men and women who do not otherwise have access to health care.
- Increase the number of qualified NIH research grants that are funded every year to support the next generation of researchers and speed efforts to find a cure.
- Increase access and reimbursement rates for federally sponsored clinical trials.
- Implement a nationwide tobacco cessation program.