

July 21, 2004

The Honorable <Senator>
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a collaboration of more than 40 public interest groups representing the millions of Americans impacted by cancer, was formed to unify the cancer community and present a cohesive message to the Administration and Congress regarding the funding levels necessary to defeat cancer. We are writing to respectfully request that the Senate Appropriations Committee hold a markup of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (Labor-HHS) Appropriations bill.

While we recognize the difficult fiscal constraints you face, we urge the Senate to act now to make cancer funding a national priority. It is imperative that the Senate Appropriations Committee complete its work on the Labor-HHS bill and provide adequate funding for programs at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) that are vital to advancing the nation's war on cancer. A Senate bill is vital to the process of determining the funding levels for these key programs.

Cancer is a devastating disease that affects the lives of nearly all Americans. Cancer remains the number two killer, claiming more than 550,000 lives in the United States each year. It is estimated that one out of every two men and one out of every three women will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lives.

We thank you for your ongoing leadership to ensure that the important cancer programs at the NIH, CDC, and HRSA receive adequate funding. OVAC understands the many competing priorities in the FY05 Labor-HHS appropriations bill and appreciates that the Congress faces serious fiscal challenges this year. With a commitment from Congress to provide adequate funding for cancer research and programs, the goal of eliminating death and suffering due to cancer is within our reach. Therefore, we urge the Senate Appropriations Committee not to delay action on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Lung Cancer Advocacy, Support and Education

Alliance for Prostate Cancer Prevention (APCaP)
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Association for Cancer Research
American Cancer Society
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Surgeons
American Foundation for Urologic Disease
American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO)
American Urological Association
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation
Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation
Colon Cancer Alliance
Colorectal Cancer Network
Eyes on the Prize
Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus
International Myeloma Foundation
Lance Armstrong Foundation
Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
Lymphoma Research Foundation
Men's Health Network
National Alliance for Hispanic Health
National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)
National Council on Skin Care Prevention
National Medical Association
Oncology Nursing Society
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition
Sarcoma Foundation of America
The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation
Trust for America's Health
United Ostomy Association
Us Too! International Prostate Cancer Education & Support Network