

September 24, 2004

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

Dear Senator:

We are writing today as groups in One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a collaboration of more than 40 public interest groups representing more than 20 million Americans impacted by cancer, to thank you for the funding increases for federal cancer programs and nursing workforce programs included in the Senate Fiscal Year 2005 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.

Thanks to your support, the Senate bill would provide vital resources for the National Institutes for Health (NIH), National Cancer Institute (NCI), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). These investments will help expand promising research into treatments and cures for cancer; ensure that effective education, screening and prevention programs reach more people; and help address the nursing shortage by recruiting and retaining qualified nurses.

Cancer is the nation's number two killer and remains one of the nation's most urgent health care concerns. This year alone, more than 1.3 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer and more than 556,500 will die from this disease. Sustained support for the research and application programs at the NIH and CDC, respectively, will be critical to improve on these statistics and make continued progress in the nation's war on cancer. Nursing workforce programs at HRSA are essential to address the nursing shortage facing the nation and ensuring that people with cancer receive high quality cancer care.

Thank you again for your hard work on behalf of all Americans affected by cancer. We look forward to working closely with you to ensure that the higher Senate funding levels are retained in the final bill that is enacted.

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