

Talking Points: The Federal Budget

Timing: February – April 2004

Target: House and Senate Budget Committee Members

Core Message

Congress MUST increase significantly the allocation for health care program in the Fiscal Year 2005 (FY05) budget resolution.

- ★ OVAC joins with nearly 400 health organizations in supporting a 12% increase for health care programs in the federal budget..
- ★ The President's FY05 budget request cuts funding for public health and includes inadequate funding for cancer programs at the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute and Centers for Disease Control. NIH receives only a 2.6% increase – far less than the 8-10% increase recommended by NIH officials. According to HHS documents, the number of research project grants would increase but the average size of the grants would decrease.
- ★ Most cancer programs at the CDC receive only a .3% increase. This is less than the rate of inflation and will negatively impact the ability of these programs to reach those most in need of education and screening services.
- ★ Cancer remains the nation's #2 killer: more than 556,000 people die annually from cancer. One in four deaths is from cancer and one in three Americans will develop cancer in their lifetime. According to a recent poll (January 2004), cancer is one of the American people's biggest health concerns.
- ★ The federal budget should reflect the American people's spending priorities. Congress must make winning the war on cancer a national priority.
- ★ Without adequate funding for health care programs in the federal budget, critical cancer research, education, screening, and outreach programs will be imperiled.