



December 16, 2005

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

Dear President Bush:

One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a collaboration of more than 40 organizations representing millions of Americans affected by cancer, is writing to urge you and leaders in your Administration at the Department of Health and Human Services to provide the necessary resources in your budget for fiscal year (FY) 2007 to ensure that we are on track to meet our mutual goal of eliminating suffering and death from cancer by 2015. This goal, first laid out by the National Cancer Institute and now embraced by 92 Senators and 280 House members, challenges us to take bold steps to save and improve the lives of our citizens.

Prior investments in cancer research, education, prevention, awareness, treatment, and control as well as nursing education and workforce programs at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), 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. Since 1971, when President Nixon and Congress declared war against cancer, we have made real progress. Today, nearly 10 million survivors are living with a history of cancer. Between 1991 and 2001, the drop in the cancer mortality rate was 10 percent, translating to as many as 321,000 lives saved..

However, for too many people and many of the deadliest cancers, this progress has been incremental, at best. To reach our shared goal of ending suffering and death from cancer by 2015, starting with FY 2007, we ask that you and your Administration lay out a bold vision and provide the necessary increase in federal funding to exponentially speed up the process of research discovery and development of improved treatment options.

We need your leadership. 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 560,000 Americans. In 2005 alone, cancer costs our nation \$210 billion in lost productivity, human capital, and increased direct medical costs.

We appreciate that our nation faces many fiscal challenges; however, we are concerned that without sustained commitment and the additional resources necessary in your FY 2007 budget for cancer research, education, prevention, awareness, treatment, and control as well as continued investment in nursing education and workforce, the nation will fail to make the gains necessary to

achieve the 2015 goal. OVAC stands ready to work with you and with Congress to ensure that progress occurs, the 2015 goal is achieved, and that 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 2007 budget so that we can achieve our mutual goal.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Prostate Cancer Prevention (APCaP)  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)  
American Cancer Society  
American College of Surgeons  
American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology  
C3: Colorectal Cancer Coalition  
Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation  
Friends of Cancer Research  
Gay and Lesbian Medical Association  
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus  
International Myeloma Foundation  
Lance Armstrong Foundation  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Men's Health Network  
National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer Coalitions  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD)  
National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)  
National Prostate Cancer Coalition  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition  
Sarcoma Foundation of America  
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists  
Trust for America's Health  
United Ostomy Association of America, Inc.  
Us TOO!

cc: White House Office of Legislative Affairs