



May 2, 2011

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

As members of One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a coalition of public interest groups representing the millions of cancer researchers, patients, survivors and their families throughout the nation, we are writing to express our concern about the FY 2011 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) budget.

The \$740 million cut to the CDC presents many challenges and we recognize that you have a difficult task in balancing priorities within the agency's budget. However, we ask that you not cut funding for cancer programs that have a proven record of success for early detection, prevention, education and data collection. Collectively, the CDC cancer programs are the cornerstone of our country's cancer prevention efforts. Cuts to these programs would hinder the progress made during the past few years in reducing both cancer incidence and mortality.

Sixty percent of cancer deaths today could be prevented by simply doing what we already know. The proposed cuts to the CDC budget would result in fewer people having access to proven screening programs and evidence-based educational materials. Programs such as the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program and the Colorectal Cancer Control Program increase access and improve the quality of breast and cervical, colorectal cancer screening nationwide. State breast and cervical cancer programs alone have saved thousands of lives by giving low-income and uninsured individuals access to the care they need to continue living health lives.

The National Program of Cancer Registries serves as the foundation for surveillance of cancer incidence and mortality across the country. Data collected under this program helps public health professionals at every level of government determine and monitor cancer trends, prioritize resources and advance research.

Lastly, CDC funding for nationwide outreach and education programs is also critical to our cancer prevention efforts. This funding supports public awareness campaigns, the development of culturally appropriate materials, as well as educational resources on a range of topics for gynecologic, ovarian, blood, skin and prostate cancer.

As you work to implement the budget for this year, we ask that the CDC cancer programs receive funding at FY 2010 levels. The members of OVAC thank you for your consideration of this request and stand ready to support your efforts on behalf of these programs.

Sincerely,

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network
Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus
International Myeloma Foundation
LIVESTRONG
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Malecare Prostate Cancer Support
Men's Health Network
National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer Coalitions
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists
Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network