



October 18, 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman, Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norman Dicks  
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Denny Rehberg  
Chairman  
Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Rep. Dicks, Chairman Rehberg and Rep. DeLauro:

As members of One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a coalition of public interest groups representing millions of cancer researchers, patients, survivors and their families throughout the nation, we thank you for making funding for cancer research a priority in the FY 2012 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations Chairman's Mark.

Major advances in cancer research are happening at a faster pace than ever before. In the past year alone, federally funded research has led to life-altering cancer research breakthroughs in lung cancer and skin cancer. The \$1 billion increase proposed in the bill for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) would go a long way to ensuring that the progress made during the past few years in the fight against cancer is not squandered. We strongly support your efforts to protect this funding as negotiations with the Senate move forward.

We are however concerned by the proposed cuts to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in the bill. While the bill does not include specific details on the CDC cancer programs, it does indicate that chronic disease funding at the CDC would be cut by more than \$112 million (13.8 percent). While we do not know the details of how this cut would be distributed, we are deeply concerned that such a significant cut to chronic disease funding could be very damaging to the cancer control programs. At least half of all cancer deaths could be avoided through better prevention and early detection. A study published by the National Cancer Institute in January indicates that due to our aging population there will be dramatically increased medical costs to the nation over the next decade unless cancer is prevented and controlled more effectively. This is why funding for the CDC cancer programs is so critical.

Additionally, prevention by itself has the potential to transform our health system in new and innovative ways that will lead to a healthier population and lower health care costs. We urge funding for the Prevention and Public Health Fund to be restored because we know that through tobacco control, better diet and exercise, and access to early detection and treatment we can save hundreds of thousands of lives every year.

Lastly, we ask that funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VIII Nursing Programs be restored. This bill would cut nursing programs by 56 percent (\$136 million). With a shortage of cancer research nurses, progress against cancer will take longer because of scarce human resources. The reality is that some practice and cancer center resources could be funneled away from cancer research in order to pay for the hiring and retention of oncology nurses to provide direct patient care.

The members of OVAC thank you for your consideration of this request and stand ready to support your efforts.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Prostate Cancer Prevention  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Association for Cancer Research  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer  
American Society for Clinical Oncology  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network  
Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research  
CureSearch for Children's Cancer  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
Friends of Cancer Research  
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus  
International Myeloma Foundation  
LIVESTRONG  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Malecare Prostate Cancer Support  
Men's Health Network  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
National Brain Tumor Society  
National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
Nevada Cancer Institute  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance

Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition  
Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Sarcoma Foundation of America  
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists  
Susan G. Komen for the Cure Advocacy Alliance  
Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network