



November 3, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Leader McConnell and Leader Reid:

As members of One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a broad coalition of nearly 50 cancer-related organizations that focus on the federal investment in cancer research, we urge you to support the National Cancer Moonshot Initiative by taking up and passing the 21st Century Cures Act when Congress returns this month.

OVAC members believe the Cancer Moonshot Initiative objective of making a decade's worth of life saving scientific progress in the next five years can most likely be achieved by Congress promptly assuring essential funding of it by enactment of the 21st Century Cures Act in 2016. As a coalition, OVAC focuses exclusively on increasing federal funding for cancer research and other programs essential to the fight against cancer, which is why our comments focus solely on the need for greater resources for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Cancer Institute (NCI), and Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Many OVAC members have and will continue to reach out to you directly to comment on other issues being considered by the committee.

It is estimated that almost 1.7 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer this year. More than 595,000 Americans will die from the disease in 2016, and it will cost our economy an estimated \$216 billion in direct treatment costs and lost productivity. Annual cancer incidence rates are also projected to increase by 31 percent over the next decade, growing to 2.1 million people diagnosed in 2025. Furthermore, the number of cancer survivors now exceeds 15.5 million, and services for those living with, through and beyond a diagnosis must be improved.

For decades, research conducted at NIH and NCI has played a key role in virtually every major cancer prevention, detection, and treatment discovery. The Cancer Moonshot Initiative provides a blueprint for how to accelerate and extend progress for the cancer patients who need it most by helping to modernize clinical trials, build on advances in precision oncology, develop effective immunotherapies for a broader array of cancers, and ensure an appropriate emphasis on pediatric cancers as well.

The importance of Congress funding the Cancer Moonshot Initiative as soon as possible by enactment of the 21st Century Cures Act in 2016 is without question. Waiting until next year to act is not an option for cancer patients and their families. It is also imperative that funding provided for Cancer Moonshot research be specifically directed to NCI. NCI is the scientific thought leader behind the Cancer Moonshot and the scientific recommendations in the Blue Ribbon Panel report. Directly funding the Cancer Moonshot at NCI will ensure that research recommended in the Blue Ribbon Panel report will proceed without delay.

The members of OVAC are grateful for the continued support you have provided for the Cancer Moonshot and the bipartisan manner in which this bill has been negotiated. On behalf of the millions of researchers, physicians, pharmacists, nurses, patients, and survivors represented by OVAC, we thank you for your efforts and ask you to complete this momentous effort to help cancer patients and accelerate the pace of medical discovery.

Sincerely,

Action to Cure Kidney Cancer
Alliance for Prostate Cancer Prevention (APCaP)
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Association for Cancer Research
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer
American Sexual Health Association
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO)
American Urological Association
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network
Cancer Support Community
Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Esophageal Cancer Action Network
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Friends of Cancer Research
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA)
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus
International Myeloma Foundation
LIVESTRONG Foundation

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS)
The Life Raft Group
Lung Cancer Alliance
Malecare Cancer Support
Men's Health Network
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation
MPN Research Foundation
National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer Coalitions (NASPCC)
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Brain Tumor Society
National Cervical Cancer Coalition
National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)
National LGBT Cancer Project
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Oncology Nursing Society
Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition (PPCC)
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Prostate Conditions Education Council
Sarcoma Foundation of America
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
St. Baldrick's Foundation
Susan G. Komen
Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network
ZERO – The End of Prostate Cancer

Cc: United States House Committee on Energy and Commerce Members

Cc: United State Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Members