



March 7, 2016

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky:

On behalf of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, I am writing to urge you to continue the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) at no less than \$50 million, and respectfully ask that you continue to include pancreatic cancer as a disease eligible for research funding through this program.

This year, pancreatic cancer surpassed breast cancer to become the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the U.S. While survival rates for many cancers have steadily improved, pancreatic cancer is the only major cancer with a survival rate in the single digits—at just *eight percent*. Nearly three-fourths of those diagnosed with pancreatic cancer will die within a year of their diagnosis. This year, more than 53,000 Americans will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and nearly 42,000 will die from this disease. Even more troubling than these grim statistics are projections that pancreatic cancer is on pace to surpass colorectal cancer to become the *second* leading cause of cancer-related death within the next four years.

Pancreatic cancer research has been a part of PRCRP since 2011, resulting in 24 research grants for a total of \$9 million. This funding has helped advance research on earlier detection of pancreatic cancer, better understanding of the prognosis of pancreatic cancer patients and improving the well-being of individuals with a pancreatic cancer diagnosis.

I strongly urge you to maintain pancreatic cancer as a field of research eligible for funding through the PRCRP and to provide no less than \$50 million for this vital research program. With your support, we can ensure that adequate resources are available for making pancreatic cancer, its early detection and improved treatment a national priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Megan Gordon Don". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

Megan Gordon Don
Vice President, Government Affairs & Advocacy

cc: U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense



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