

DEADLIEST CANCERS COALITION

March 22, 2017

Dear [Senator/ Representative] [Senator/Representative Last Name]:

As members of the Deadliest Cancers Coalition, a collaboration of national nonprofit organizations focused on addressing issues related to our nation's most lethal cancers, we appreciate the action Congress took last year to authorize and provide FY2017 funding for the Cancer Moonshot. That funding will be helpful with a select number of specific projects that will advance many forms of cancer, including some of the nation's deadliest cancers.

Cures Act funding alone, however, will not be sufficient to achieve the Cancer Moonshot's goals or to achieve our nation's goals to reduce death and suffering from cancer, which go far beyond the Moonshot. Continued progress on the 200 diseases we call "cancer", and specifically on our nation's deadliest cancers, requires sustained and robust increases for the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in the annual Labor, HHS appropriations bill in addition to full funding for the Cancer Moonshot.

When it passed the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act (Public Law 112-239), Congress defined the deadliest or recalcitrant cancers as those with a five-year survival rate below 50 percent. While a variety of cancers fall under this definition, nearly half of the cancer deaths that will occur this year will be caused by seven site-specific cancers: ovary, brain, stomach, esophagus, lung, liver, and pancreas. While each is unique, the nation's deadliest cancers present some common challenges: (1) there are few early detection tools and/or effective treatments and (2) research is desperately needed to change their persistently low survival rates.

Nevertheless, there is reason for hope. We ask that you reject the Administration's proposed \$5.8 billion cut to the FY 2018 budget for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and instead continue the vigilance on providing stable funding increases for the NIH and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) so that we can continue the basic and translational research that is critical to making advances on the nation's deadliest cancers. Specifically, we call on the 115th Congress to support the nation's deadliest cancers by:

- Putting the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on a path of sustained growth by passing a final FY2017 appropriations bill that includes the Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$34.1 billion for the NIH.
- Continuing to support critical research on the nation's deadliest cancers by passing a FY2018 appropriations bill that increases the NIH budget by at least \$2 billion and provides \$300 million in additional funding for the Cancer Moonshot as designated in the 21st Century Cures Act. It is critical that the funding for the Cancer Moonshot supplement, not supplant, appropriated funding for the NIH and/or the NCI.

- Joining the Congressional Caucus on the Deadliest Cancers and by ensuring that there are no lapses in health coverage for this critical population.

On behalf of those patients diagnosed with our nation's deadliest cancers, we thank you for considering our requests. Please contact Megan Gordon Don at (202) 742-6776 or mgdon@pancan.org if you have any questions or would like to discuss our requests further.

Sincerely,

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American College of Gastroenterology
American Gastroenterological Association
American Liver Foundation
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization
Blue Faery: The Adrienne Wilson Liver Cancer Association
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Esophageal Cancer Action Network
Hepatitis B Foundation
Hepatitis Foundation International
International Myeloma Foundation
Lung Cancer Alliance
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation
National Brain Tumor Society
National Ovarian Cancer Coalition
National Pancreas Foundation
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
TargetCancer Foundation