May 29, 2014

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Eric Cantor
Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Whip
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable John Cornyn
Minority Whip
United States Senate

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice-Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Minority Whip
United States Senate

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Majority Whip
United States Senate

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

Dear House and Senate Leaders:

In recognition of May as National Cancer Research Month, we the undersigned organizations dedicated to the conquest of all forms of cancer, strongly urge you to make cancer research and biomedical science a national priority by providing at least $32 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and $5.26 billion for the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in FY 2015.

Strong support for NIH is essential if we are to conquer the devastating collection of the more than 200 diseases we call cancer, ensure that the current and next generations of researchers will be equipped to continue this mission, grow our nation's economy, and remain at the forefront of medical research globally.

Over the past few decades, we have made significant progress against some forms of cancer, which is perhaps best demonstrated by the following statistics:

- Today, there are nearly 14 million cancer survivors living in the United States, 15 percent of whom were diagnosed 20 or more years ago.
- There have been more than 1 million fewer cancer deaths since the early 1990s as a result of declining death rates from cancer.
- Today, more than 68 percent of adults are living five years or more after their initial diagnosis, up from 50 percent in 1975;
- The five-year survival rate for all childhood cancers combined increased from 58 percent in 1975–77 to more than 80 percent in 2013.

In recent years, the acceleration in the rate of research advances against many forms of cancer has been remarkable. For example, in just the last 18 months, cancer patients now have access to:

- 13 new drugs to treat a variety of cancers
- 6 new uses for previously approved cancer drugs
- 3 new imaging technologies
- the first approval of a combination of targeted therapies for the same indication, and,
- the first high throughput sequencing machine that has been cleared by the FDA, which will help tailor treatments for patients

The progress we have achieved against many forms of cancer is the result of an extraordinary commitment on the part of researchers, such as the dedicated teams of scientists collaborating at cancer centers all across the country, patient advocates, and policymakers. Sustaining our country's steadfast commitment to the NIH will result in continued improvements to the entire spectrum of patient care, from cancer prevention, early detection, and diagnosis, to treatment and long-term survivorship.

However, even in the face of tremendous progress, cancer remains a formidable opponent. An estimated 1.6 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer this year, and 1 in every 3 women and 1 in every 2 men will likely develop cancer in their lifetimes. It is also projected that more than 580,000 people will die this year in the U.S. from the disease, which is almost 1,600 people each day. In fact, cancer will account for nearly one in every four deaths, making it the second most common cause of disease-related death in the United States. It is further projected that by 2030, cancer will overtake heart disease as the leading cause of death in the United States. And there also remain a number of cancers, including pancreatic, liver, lung, ovarian and brain cancers, for which the mortality rate remains extraordinarily high and 5-year survival rates are typically less than 50 percent. Further, racial and ethnic minorities, as well as low-income and elderly populations, continue to suffer disproportionately in cancer incidence, prevalence, and mortality.

Because of the steady increase in cancer incidence rates, which is mainly due to our increasingly aging population, and the enormous complexity of many cancers, continuing and strengthening our nation's commitment to cancer research and biomedical science is more critical now than ever. Therefore, investing in the NIH and NCI will play a vital role in addressing the current challenges in cancer, while at the same time curbing the overall annual costs of this devastating disease —which exceeded $263 billion in 2010, and the economic burden is expected to rise if the number of cancer deaths increases. Increased funding for both the NIH and NCI will help mitigate not only the recent cuts sustained by these vital

research institutions, but also begin the process restoring funding lost over a decade of essentially flat budgets. When factoring in the rate of biomedical inflation, the agency has lost nearly 25 percent of its ability to fund life-saving research since 2003. Furthermore, the current (FY 2014) NIH funding level actually remains lower than in FY 2012 because of the effects from sequestration, which resu lted in a 5.1 percent cut to NIH's and NCI's budget in FY 2013.

The sequester cuts in 2013 had a significant impact on cancer research, resulting in the following:

- 640 fewer competitive research grants were issued, according to the NIH
- Approximately 750 fewer new patients were admitted to the NIH Clinical Center
- Phase I and Phase II clinical trials for cancer research were impacted at cancer centers throughout the country
- Promising young scientists were lost to research facilities overseas
- Research projects were shut down or paused, resulting in a direct impact to the research enterprise

Therefore, this all underscores why it is imperative that Congress invest fully in cancer research by providing the NIH with $32 billion and the NCI with $5.26 billion in FY 2015. A strong commitment to NIH and NCI will lead to more progress, more hope, and more lives saved. The millions of people who have faced a cancer diagnosis and their loved ones are relying on your support to conquer this devastating disease.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

American Association for Cancer Research

Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania

American Academy of Dermatology Association

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Gastroenterological Association

American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association

American Society of Clinical Oncology

American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

American Society of Radiation Oncology

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization

Association of American Cancer Institutes

Association of Community Cancer Centers

Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Center

Boston Public Health Commission

Breast Cancer Action

Breast Cancer Research Foundation

Breast Cancer Comfort Site

C-Change

Cancer Support Community

Cancer Therapy and Research Center at the University of Texas Health Science Center

Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research

Chordoma Foundation

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Community Service Center of Greater Williamsburg

Comprehensive Cancer Center of Wake Forest University

The Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Daughters of Penelope

Deadliest Cancers Coalition

Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer

Digestive Disease National Coalition

Duke Cancer Institute

Esophageal Cancer Action Network (ECAN)

Fight Colorectal Cancer

Fox Chase Cancer Center

Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

Friends of Cancer Research

Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association

Hepatitis B Foundation

Hepatitis Foundation International

Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center at Columbia University

Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Iowa

Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah

ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network

Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus

International Myeloma Foundation

Kidney Cancer Association

Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

LIVE**STRONG** Foundation

Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center at Georgetown University

Lung Cancer Alliance

Lung Cancer Circle of Hope

LUNGevity

Malecare Cancer Support

Mayo Clinic Cancer Center

Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center

Melanoma Research Alliance

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

MESA Public Health Associates

Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation

Moffitt Cancer Center

MPN Research Foundation

National Brain Tumor Society

National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)

Oncology Nursing Society

One Voice Against Cancer

Ovarian Cancer National Alliance

Pancreatic Cancer Action Network

Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute

Prevent Cancer Foundation

Preventing Colorectal Cancer

Prostate Cancer International

Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University

Roswell Park Cancer Institute

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Center at Cedars Sinai Medical Center

Sarcoma Foundation of America

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins

Society of Gynecologic Oncology

St. Baldrick's Foundation

Stanford Cancer Institute

Stephenson Cancer Center Board of Advocates

Stony Brook Cancer Center

Susan G. Komen

The George Washington Cancer Institute

The Nicholas Conor Institute

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center--James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute

The Tulane Cancer Center

University of Alabama at Birmingham Comprehensive Cancer Center

University of Chicago Comprehensive Cancer Center

University of Colorado Cancer Center

University of Illinois Cancer Center

University of Kansas Cancer Center

University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center

University of New Mexico Cancer Center

University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

University of Texas Southwestern Simmons Cancer Center

University of Virginia Cancer Center

University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center

Us TOO International

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Vermont Cancer Center

Wilmot Cancer Institute at the University of Rochester

Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University

The Wistar Institute Cancer Center

Yes! Beat Liver Tumors