May 31, 2013

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

Dear House and Senate Leaders:

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

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 steadily increasing our federal investment in the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Strong support for NIH is essential if we are to conquer the devastating collection of the more than 200

diseases we call cancer, 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, 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.
- Today, there are nearly 14 million cancer survivors living in the United States, 15 percent of whom were diagnosed 20 or more years ago.

In recent years, the acceleration in the rate of research advances against many forms of cancer has been remarkable. Major discoveries about the fundamental biology of many cancers are now beginning to be translated into targeted therapies against some specific cancers. Consider that in the past 18 months alone the Food and Drug Administration has approved:

- A new drug for treating precancerous lesions of the skin
- 11 new drugs for treating a variety of types of cancer, of which 2 are entirely new classes of drugs
- 7 new uses for previously approved cancer drugs

The unprecedented progress we have achieved against many forms of cancer is the result of extraordinary advances in research, combined with visionary public health policy and the passionate work of countless survivors and patient advocates. 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.

While we are making tremendous progress in many areas, cancer remains a formidable opponent. Approximately 580,000 people will die this year in U.S. from the disease, which is almost 1,600 people each day. In fact, more than 1.6 million Americans are diagnosed annually, and 1 in every 3 women and 1 in every 2 men will likely develop cancer in their lifetimes. There also remain a number of recalcitrant cancers, including pancreatic, liver and lung cancers, for which the mortality rate is 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. The investments made in cancer research and biomedical science, particularly those supported by public funds through the NIH, 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.

Therefore, as you begin to craft the fiscal year (FY) 2014 appropriations bills and seek to address the nation's larger fiscal challenges, including the devastating effects of sequestration, we respectfully request that you acknowledge the importance of federal funding for cancer research and biomedical science by providing at least \$32 billion for the NIH in FY 2014.

This level of funding will help mitigate the past decade of essentially flat budgets for NIH. When factoring in the rate of biomedical inflation, the agency has lost nearly 20 percent of its ability to fund

life-saving research, or roughly \$6 billion. Furthermore, the NIH budget sustained a 5.1 percent cut through sequestration earlier this year.

However, and most importantly, a strong commitment to NIH will lead to more progress, more hope, and more lives saved, which is why millions of people who have faced a cancer diagnosis and their loved ones are relying on your support to conquer this awful disease.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

American Association for Cancer Research

Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma Research Foundation

American Academy of Dermatology Association

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American College of Gastroenterology

American Gastroenterological Association

American Sexual Health Association

American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

American Society for Radiation Oncology

American Society of Clinical Oncology

American Society of Hematology

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Association of American Cancer Institutes

Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Center

Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Cancer Research Institute

Cancer Support Community

Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research

Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy

Chordoma Foundation

City of Hope Cancer Center

Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Institute

Coalition of Cancer Cooperative Groups

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Deadly Cancer Coalition

Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer

Digestive Disease National Coalition

Duke Cancer Institute

Edith Sanford Breast Cancer Foundation

Esophageal Cancer Action Network

The EVAN Foundation

Fight Colorectal Cancer

Friends of Cancer Research

Georgetown University Medical Center Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center

Hepatitis B Foundation

The Hepatitis Foundation International

Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association

Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center at Columbia University

Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah

Imerman Angels

International Cancer Advocacy Network

International Myeloma Foundation

James Graham Brown Cancer Center at the University of Louisville

Kidney Cancer Association

Kure It Cancer Research

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

LIVESTRONG Foundation

Lung Cancer Alliance

Lung Cancer Circle of Hope

LUNGevity

Lymphoma Research Foundation

Malecare Cancer Support

Marlene and Stewart Greenbaum Cancer Center at the University of Maryland

Melanoma Research Alliance

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

Men's Health Network

Moffitt Cancer Center

National Brain Tumor Society

National Cervical Cancer Association

National Coalition for Cancer Research

National Ovarian Cancer Coalition

NYU Cancer Institute

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center—James Cancer Hospital

Oncology Nursing Society

One Voice Against Cancer Coalition

Ovarian Cancer National Alliance

Pancreatic Cancer Action Network

Personalized Medicine Coalition

Prevent Cancer Foundation

Prostate Cancer Foundation

Research!America

Roswell Park Cancer Institute

Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute at Cedars Sinai Medical Center

Sarcoma Foundation of America

Seattle Cancer Care Alliance

Society of Gynecologic Oncology

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

The George Washington Cancer Institute

ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivor's Association

Uniting Against Lung Cancer

The University of Chicago Comprehensive Cancer Center

University of Colorado Cancer Center

University of Kansas Cancer Center

University of Maryland Medical System

University of New Mexico Cancer Center

University of North Carolina Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center

Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University

The Wistar Institute Cancer Center

Yes! Beat Liver Tumors