



American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
555 11th Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20004
202.661.5700
www.acscan.org

November 14, 2013

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Chairman
Budget Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairman
Budget Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Ryan and Budget Conference Vice-Chair Murray:

On behalf of millions of cancer patients, survivors and their families, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) urges you to work together to end sequestration and reach a budget agreement that prioritizes the research and prevention programs that are the backbone of the fight against cancer.

Cancer continues to be a leading cause of death reaching indiscriminately into every state and community. One in two men and one in three women will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetimes. The disease will kill more than 580,000 people in the United States this year and will cost more than \$201 billion in medical care and lost productivity.

Despite these statistics, we have made progress fighting this disease, which is largely due to the results of federally supported research at the National Institutes of Health, and funding passed through to research institutions in every state, including both of yours. This work has contributed to every major cancer research breakthrough since President Nixon made fighting this disease a national priority.

NIH research also supported more than 400,000 high paying jobs and generated economic growth totaling \$57.8 billion in 2012. It is why the United States is and remains the world's leading innovator in medical research. ACS CAN recognizes the importance of reigning in our nation's debt, but cutting NIH funding is the wrong approach.

With respect to prevention, we know that about half of all cancer deaths could be avoided through better access to breast, colorectal and cervical cancer screenings, better diet and exercise, and tobacco cessation. These low cost public health strategies reduce health care costs and save lives. However, sequestration has forced the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to cut support for every state in the country, meaning that Americans have less access to life-saving cancer screenings and increased health care costs in the long run.

Federal cancer research and prevention funding saves lives and promotes economic growth at a time when our country is desperate to do both. These efforts are investments in our nation's future that support and contribute to the fight against a disease that has ravaged the world's population since the beginning of history.

Please work together to reach an agreement that makes fighting cancer a top priority by ending the harm being caused by sequestration on these vital programs. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher W. Hansen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Christopher W. Hansen
President