



American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
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December 18, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Mikulski and Rogers and Ranking Members Shelby and Lowey:

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 provide the Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee with a FY 2014 spending allocation that prioritizes the research and prevention programs that are the backbone of the fight against cancer. Specifically, we ask that harsh sequestration cuts be fully restored and that you provide the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with a budget of at least \$31 billion.

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. This work has contributed to every major cancer research breakthrough since passage of the National Cancer Act of 1971.

NIH research supported more than 400,000 high paying jobs and generated economic growth totaling \$57.8 billion in 2012, down from 432,000 jobs and \$62.1 billion in 2011. The United States is the world's leading innovator in medical research; cuts to research funding are endangering this position. 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 in every state, 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 determined 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.

We urge you to provide the Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee with an allocation that makes fighting cancer a top priority by restoring funding to 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