



American Cancer Society  
Cancer Action Network  
555 11<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20004  
202.661.5700  
[www.acscan.org](http://www.acscan.org)

September 11, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chair Leahy, Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, supporting evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. As such, we write to you regarding programs affecting cancer patients and their families in H.R. 6157, the Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019.

For the last 50 years, every major medical breakthrough in cancer can be traced back to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Because of the previous investment in cancer research, more than 15.5 million American cancer survivors are alive today, and we are enjoying a quarter century of sustained declines in cancer mortality. That overall decline in cancer mortality of 26 percent since 1991 amounts to 2.4 million cancer deaths averted.

Thanks to your leadership, significant progress has been made to reduce the loss of purchasing power experienced by NIH and NCI since FY 2003, the end of the five-year doubling of NIH. Advances in cancer research are saving more lives than ever. Without consistent increases in federal research funding, new treatments and tests may not reach the cancer patients who need them most.

Unfortunately, funding for NIH and NCI still lags behind what it would have been if funding had simply kept up with biomedical inflation. As you know, we are at a point where there are tremendous breakthroughs with opportunities for advancements in medical research that could help turn the tide against cancer. With one in two men and one in three women expected to be diagnosed with cancer in

their lifetime we must work to ensure that promising research reaches patients and does not get stuck on the shelf because of a lack of federal resources. It is critical that we keep this momentum going forward as millions of Americans from every state across the country are counting on lawmakers to take action.

That is why Congress should continue its bipartisan commitment and capitalize on the prior investments in medical research by ensuring that commitment continues this year by approving at least a \$2 billion increase for NIH, and \$6.147 billion total for NCI, as reflected in the Senate-passed H.R. 6157.

We also believe the additional \$2 million for cancer registries at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) included in the Senate-passed H.R. 6157 should be adopted by Conferees. This funding will begin the process of tracking pediatric cancer cases as outlined in the Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access and Research (STAR) Act. Specifically, the funds will be used to identify and train reporters of childhood cancer cases, secure infrastructure to ensure early reporting and capture of child cancer incidences and support the collection of cases into a national childhood cancer registry.

Skin cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the U.S., and rates have been rising for the past 30 years. We were therefore pleased to see the \$875,000 increase for skin cancer activities at the CDC included in the Senate-passed H.R. 6157. Additionally, we are grateful for the commitment in both the Senate-passed and House Committee bills to maintain current funding levels for the CDC's cancer screening and early detection programs as well as programs at the Office on Smoking and Health. However, we are concerned that funding for cancer prevention programs at CDC have essentially remained flat since 2010 although research shows that up to 50 percent of the estimated 609,640 cancer deaths this year might have been prevented through strategies addressing tobacco use, proper diet, regular exercise, managing weight and getting recommended preventive screenings. We therefore encourage Conferees to take this opportunity to provide additional funding for these important activities at CDC.

Once again, thank you for your continued leadership on these cancer research and prevention issues important in the fight against cancer. Funding for these programs must continue to be top budget priorities in order to increase the pace of progress in the fight against cancer.

Sincerely,

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

Christopher W. Hansen  
President

Cc: House and Senate Conferees for H.R. 6157