



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

March 13, 2013

Dear Senator:

On behalf of millions of cancer patients, survivors and their families, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network urges you to vote for the Harkin amendment to The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013. The Harkin amendment would begin to restore a small amount of the cancer research and prevention funding that has been cut over the past few months, first with the fiscal cliff legislation and more recently with the sequester. The amendment does not increase the overall cost of the legislation.

Cancer continues to be a leading cause of death reaching indiscriminately into every state. The disease will kill more than 580,000 people in the United States this year and will cost hundreds of billions of dollars in medical care and lost productivity.

Despite these statistics, we have made progress fighting this disease, and that has been largely due to the results of federally supported research at the National Institutes of Health, and passed through to research institutions in every state, including yours. This work has contributed to every major cancer research breakthrough over the past 40 years.

NIH research also supported more than 400,000 high paying jobs and generated spin off economic growth totaling \$57.8 billion in 2012. It is why the United States is and remains the world's leading innovator in biomedical research.

With respect to prevention, we know that 50 percent of cancers could be avoided through better access to breast, colorectal and cervical cancer screenings, better diet and exercise, and tobacco cessation. The Harkin amendment would restore a small amount of the funding cuts directed at the Centers for Disease Control cancer control programs that support each of these cancer prevention strategies in your state.

Federal cancer research and prevention funding saves lives, and promotes high technology growth and U.S. leadership in one of the world's most important and competitive industries. We should view it as an investment in our nation's future that supports and contributes to the fight against a disease that has ravaged the world's population since the beginning of history.

The Harkin amendment is a small but significant step in the right direction, and we urge you to vote for the amendment. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Christopher W. Hansen
President