November 9, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
521 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20415

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), I want to thank Congress for fighting cancer together. This year we marked two exciting milestones: America's 250th anniversary and 18.5 million cancer survivors alive today – a record number of survivors. Those more than 18 million cancer survivors are here for America's 250th because of Congressional support for lifesaving cancer research, prevention, and cancer fighting-policies. As you consider legislative priorities for the end of the 119th Congress, ACS CAN asks that this leadership in the fight against cancer continue and requests the highest possible funding for important cancer programs in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 appropriations bill, including language that builds upon enacted safeguards against policies that could further delay or disrupt appropriated grant funding for cancer research, and final passage of three bills that will advance prevention and screening efforts.

ACS CAN asks you to complete FY 2027 appropriations bills and support the highest possible funding in the Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Services bill for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) cancer related programs, including the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) and the Office on Smoking and Health, as well as level funding for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H). Such investments in biomedical research and clinical trials keep America a leader in finding tomorrow's cancer treatments and even cures. Further, when at least 40 percent of cancers

can be prevented, robust funding for cancer prevention, screening, and early detection programs is one of the most effective ways to save lives and reduce long-term healthcare spending. Sustained investment in these agencies and programs is essential in accelerating progress in the fight against cancer.

But this funding is only as impactful as the protections put around it. We urge your inclusion of language to further delay implementation of a proposed Office of Management and Budget (OMB) rule that would change the federal government's grantmaking framework and ensure research funding is guided by scientific merit and evidence. Cancer patients cannot afford delays in the search for better treatments and cures; Congress must protect NIH's evidence-based research process so researchers can focus on what matters — advancing treatments and saving lives.

In addition, we urge your consideration of three important bipartisan bills that would reduce the burden of cancer. All three of these bills have very broad support in both the House and Senate, and we hope you will work together to get them signed into law before the end of this year.

- The *Screening for Communities to Receive Early and Equitable Needed Services (SCREENS) for Cancer Act (H.R.2381/S.1866)* reauthorizes and strengthens the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) for Fiscal Years 2026–2030, decreasing breast and cervical cancer deaths by providing cost-effective screenings, diagnostic tests, and treatment referral services for the under-insured and uninsured.

- The *EARLY Act Reauthorization (H.R.4541/S. 2339)* supports programs and services that address the unique needs of young women who have breast cancer or who are at risk for breast cancer, including support for young breast cancer survivor and metastatic breast cancer communities, an outreach campaign to raise awareness of breast cancer in young women, and healthcare provider training and education. About 16 percent of all new cases of breast cancer in the U.S. are in women younger than 50; this bill is more important now than ever.

- The *Women and Lung Cancer Research and Preventive Services Act (H.R.2319/S.1157)* directs the federal government to evaluate existing research and identify opportunities to improve our understanding of lung cancer in women, including opportunities related to prevention, early detection, diagnosis, and treatment. While lung cancer incidence is higher for men overall, it is higher for younger women aged 35-54 than for their male counterparts – a fact not fully explained by smoking status.

Cancer remains one of the nation's most pressing public health challenges. Strong funding for cancer research and prevention alongside important program authorizations that

improve access to evidence-based prevention and early detection can help identify cancer earlier, improve health outcomes and reduce the human and economic costs associated with later-stage disease.

ACS CAN stands ready to support your important work to advance these appropriations and authorization requests.

Sincerely,



Lisa A. Lacasse
President
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network