June 2, 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norman Dicks
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Denny Rehberg
Chairman
Labor - HHS - Education Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Labor - HHS - Education Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Rep. Dicks, Chairman Rehberg and Rep. DeLauro:

As members of One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a coalition of public interest groups representing the millions of cancer researchers, patients, survivors and their families throughout the nation, we urge you to maintain essential appropriations support for cancer prevention and control programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

CDC Cancer Programs - Front Line Defender Against Cancer Death and Cost

Collectively, the CDC cancer programs are the cornerstone of our country's cancer prevention efforts. Cancer takes the lives of 1,500 Americans each day. CDC prevention programs are a key element of national efforts that can reduce that toll. Cuts to these programs will hinder the progress made during the past few years in reducing both cancer incidence and mortality. The fiscal year 2011 budget presented many challenges and led to a $740 million cut to the CDC, and we recognize that you have another difficult task in balancing priorities for fiscal year 2012. However, we ask that you not further cut funding for cancer programs that have a proven record of success for early detection, prevention, education, awareness, and data collection.

To Be Effective CDC Cancer Programs Must Remain *Separate*

We also ask that you maintain all the cancer prevention as a distinct separate program within the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, and they not be included as part of any broader consolidation. This must be done to ensure cancer prevention efforts are not diluted. The President's proposal to merge all chronic disease programs within one grant program would severely reduce the success cancer prevention and control programs at CDC. It would obscure the urgency of cancer prevention and decrease efficiency among the cancer programs.

CDC Cancer Prevention Programs – A Top Weapon for Fighting Cancer

Sixty percent of cancer deaths today could be prevented by simply doing what we already know. Any further cuts or attempts to consolidate the cancer programs would result in fewer people having access to proven evidence-based educational materials and screening programs. Programs such as the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program and the Colorectal Cancer Control Program increase access and improve the quality of breast and cervical, colorectal cancer screening nationwide. State breast and cervical cancer programs alone have saved thousands of lives by giving low-income and uninsured individuals access to the care they need to continue living health lives.

CDC Cancer Statistics - Essential Element of National Cancer Program

The National Program of Cancer Registries serves as the foundation for surveillance of cancer incidence and mortality across the country. Data collected under this program helps public health professionals at every level of government determine and monitor cancer trends, prioritize resources and advance research.

CDC Cancer Education and Outreach - Cost Effective Cancer Control

Lastly, CDC funding for nationwide outreach and education programs is also critical to our cancer prevention efforts. This funding supports public awareness campaigns, the development of culturally appropriate materials, as well as educational resources on a range of topics for gynecologic, ovarian, blood, skin and prostate cancer.

As you develop a FY 2012 Labor-HHS appropriations bill, **we ask that the CDC cancer programs be funded at least at their FY 2010 levels.**

The members of OVAC thank you for your consideration of this request and stand ready to support your efforts on behalf of these programs.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Prostate Cancer Prevention
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Association for Cancer Research
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Surgeons
American Society for Radiation Oncology
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network
Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research
Colon Cancer Alliance
CureSearch National Childhood Cancer Foundation
Friends of Cancer Research

Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus
International Myeloma Foundation
LIVESTRONG
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Malecare Prostate Cancer Support
Men's Health Network
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Brain Tumor Society
National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Nevada Cancer Institute
Oncology Nursing Society
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Sarcoma Foundation of America
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists
Susan G. Komen for the Cure Advocacy Alliance
Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network