

# DEADLIEST CANCERS COALITION

November 18, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Democratic Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader Reid:

As members of the Deadliest Cancers Coalition, a collaboration of national nonprofit organizations focused on addressing issues related to our nation's most lethal cancers, we urge you to continue the commitment you demonstrated last year to funding medical research by finishing your work on a FY2017 funding and Innovations/Cures package that provides at least \$2 billion for the National Institutes of Health and funding for the Cancer Moonshot. It is also imperative that funding provided for Cancer Moonshot research be specifically directed to NCI and used to fund research into the nation's deadliest cancers.

When it passed the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act (Public Law 112-239), Congress defined the deadliest cancers as those with a five-year survival rate below 50 percent. While a variety of cancers fall under this definition, over half of the cancer deaths that will occur this year will be caused by eight site-specific cancers: ovary, myeloma, brain, stomach, esophagus, lung, liver, and pancreas.

Congress took a critical step forward in the fight against the deadliest cancers and other diseases when it approved the first \$2 billion increase for NIH last year. Please do not undercut that commitment by failing to complete your work on the FY2017 NIH funding package before you adjourn. Waiting until next year to act is simply not an option for the patients and their families that we represent.

The Cancer Moonshot Initiative offers new hope to all cancer patients, but particularly those suffering from the deadliest cancers, by providing a roadmap for accelerating research progress against cancers with extraordinarily low survival rates. For these patients, whatever promise research holds has been seriously undermined by the lack of a robust, sustained investment of funding for the NCI.

deadliestcancers.org

NCI is the scientific thought leader behind the Cancer Moonshot and the scientific recommendations in the Blue Ribbon Panel report. Directly funding the Cancer Moonshot at NCI will ensure that research recommended in the Blue Ribbon Panel report will proceed without delay.

We thank you for your consideration of this request and stand ready to support your efforts to promote cancer research funding. Please contact Megan Gordon Don at (202) 742-6776 or [mgdon@pancan.org](mailto:mgdon@pancan.org) if you have any questions or would like to discuss our requests further.

Sincerely,

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

American College of Gastroenterology

American Gastroenterological Association

American Liver Foundation

American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization

Blue Faery: The Adrienne Wilson Liver Cancer Association

Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer

Digestive Disease National Coalition

Esophageal Cancer Action Network

Hepatitis B Foundation

Hepatitis Foundation International

International Myeloma Foundation

Lung Cancer Alliance

Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation

National Brain Tumor Society

National Ovarian Cancer Coalition

National Pancreas Foundation

National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable

Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance

Pancreatic Cancer Action Network

Society of Gynecologic Oncology

TargetCancer Foundation

cc: U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on L-HHS

U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on L-HHS

U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce

U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions