



American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
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June 11, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton, Representative Pallone and Representative DeGette:

On behalf of the millions of Americans whose lives have been impacted by cancer, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is pleased to offer its support for the 21st Century Cures Act. We are also grateful for the thoughtful and inclusive process that you and your colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee undertook in developing this bill and for the opportunities for input provided to ACS CAN and other organizations.

In the United States, one in two men and one in three women will receive a cancer diagnosis in their lifetime. This year alone, an estimated 1.7 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer, more than 589,000 people in the U.S. will die from the disease, and it will cost our economy an estimated \$216 billion in direct treatment costs and lost productivity. Since President Nixon signed the landmark National Cancer Act into law, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Cancer Institute (NCI) have played a role in virtually every major advance in the fight against cancer. Cancer mortality rates have been in steady decline since the mid-1990s, and there are now more than 14.5 million cancer survivors living in the U.S.

Over the past decade, funding for cancer research has not kept up with the pace of scientific progress. When accounting for inflation, the NIH budget has shrunk by more than 22 percent since FY 2003. At the same time, researchers have begun developing targeted therapies and immunotherapies for some of the deadliest forms of cancer, ushering in a new era of precision medicine. We need to do everything we can to continue this momentum and that means more support for the research that's happening with NIH support in laboratories in every part of this nation.

ACS CAN very much appreciates the funding provisions included in the 21st Century Cures Act. The new three-year authorization of appropriations would maintain funding at a level that keeps up with inflation and allows for existing research to stay on track. The NIH Innovation Fund,

which would provide the NIH with \$10 billion in mandatory funding over five years, is a critical capital investment in our nation's medical research enterprise. It would provide much needed support for researchers and cancer centers across the country. Most of all, it has the potential to improve the pace of progress that cancer patients and their loved ones need. ACS CAN appreciates your efforts to ensure that the NIH Innovation Fund supplement and not supplant existing appropriations for the NIH.

We thank you for your leadership and vision on how to accelerate the development and delivery of new and more effective tools and treatments for the fight against cancer and other diseases that have such great cost to the economy and an even greater toll on patients and their families.

Please do not hesitate to contact Dick Woodruff (dick.woodruff@cancer.org) or David Pugach (david.pugach@cancer.org) if you have any questions or we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Christopher W. Hansen
President
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network