



January 19, 2017

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.
Director
National Institutes of Health
1 Center Drive
BG 1 RM 118A
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Dr. Collins,

As members of One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), we thank you for outstanding leadership as Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Under your leadership, the NIH has experienced tremendous growth, not only fiscally but also in significant breakthroughs in research. During your tenure, we have seen significant progress in cancer research funded through the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and it is with this progress in mind that we write to request a full and timely transfer of the 21st Century Cures Cancer Moonshot funding to NCI.

We are grateful for your work with Congressional leaders on the 21st Century Cures Act and your efforts to ensure its enactment. We were delighted to see such strong bipartisan support for the NIH and the strategic increase in funding for cancer research in Cures. Clearly, the advances supported by NCI over the past few years of creating new ways to prevent, detect, and treat cancer, and the cutting-edge, innovative recommendations made last year by the Cancer Moonshot Blue Ribbon Panel, have not been overlooked by this Congress. We thank you again for your leadership and cooperation with House and Senate leadership to instill this high level of support from both sides of the aisle.

It is in this vein that the members of OVAC ask for the prompt and complete transfer of the FY17 Cancer Moonshot funding to NCI. We agree with the recommendations of the Cancer Moonshot Blue Ribbon Panel Report (BRP) addressing the necessary enhancements and new initiatives set to be implemented through NCI's already stellar and capable framework. Knowing that the 21st Century Cures Act does not provide the level of funding requested in the President's FY 2017 budget request, it is all the more important to ensure that none of the funding is diverted from its intended purpose of implementing the BRP recommendations.

We believe that the influx of new funding as a result of the passage of 21st Century Cures and the Cancer Moonshot will begin to expedite the process of implementing the

recommendations of the BRP, moving our nation closer to the advancement of the prevention and treatment of cancers.

OVAC is comprised of more than 50 member organizations representing the interests of millions of Americans; cancer patients and survivors, caregivers, doctors and nurses, researchers and other medical professionals. We come together on behalf of one pursuit: to increase federal funding towards cancer research. On behalf of our members, we urge you to support the recommendations of the BRP report and transfer to NCI the \$300 million in funding allotted through the passage of the 21st Century Cures Act for Fiscal Year 2017 without delay.

Sincerely,

Action to Cure Kidney Cancer
Alliance for Prostate Cancer Prevention (APCaP)
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Association for Cancer Research
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer
American Sexual Health Association
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO)
American Urological Association
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network
Cancer Support Community
Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Esophageal Cancer Action Network
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Friends of Cancer Research
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA)
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus
International Myeloma Foundation
LIVESTRONG Foundation
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS)
The Life Raft Group
Lung Cancer Alliance
Malecare Cancer Support
Men's Health Network
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation
MPN Research Foundation
National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer Coalitions (NASPCC)
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Brain Tumor Society
National Cervical Cancer Coalition
National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)

National LGBT Cancer Project
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Oncology Nursing Society
Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition (PPCC)
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Prostate Conditions Education Council
Sarcoma Foundation of America
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
St. Baldrick's Foundation
Susan G. Komen
Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network
ZERO – The End of Prostate Cancer