

DEADLIEST CANCERS COALITION

October 28, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Vice Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Durbin, Chairman Visclosky and Ranking Member Calvert:

As members of the Deadliest Cancers Coalition, a collaboration of national nonprofit organizations and industry focused on addressing issues related to our nation's most lethal cancers, we deeply appreciate your leadership in including all of the site-specific deadliest cancers in the list of diseases eligible for research funding through the Department of Defense's (DOD's) Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Programs (PRCRPs) in the House and Senate FY 2020 Defense Appropriations Bills. We are writing today to request that you adopt at least the House funding levels in the final package.

The deadliest cancers are defined in the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act of 2012 as those with a five-year survival rate below 50 percent and include brain, esophageal, liver, lung, mesothelioma, ovarian, pancreatic, and stomach cancers. This year, for the first time, all of these cancers were included in the PRCRPs – either within the PRCRP or as separate line items - by both the House and the Senate. We strongly support this action.

The House bill provides \$100 million for the PRCRP for 12 cancers, including brain, esophageal, liver, mesothelioma, and stomach cancer. In addition, it includes separate line items for lung (funded at \$14 million), ovarian (funded at \$35 million) and pancreatic cancer (funded at \$6 million). The Senate bill provides \$90 million for the PRCRP for 16 cancers, including all of the deadliest cancers. Given that the research provided through the PRCRPs is critical to finding the effective early detection, diagnostic and treatment tools that are currently lacking for our nation's deadliest cancers, we ask that you consider the House funding levels for these cancers as the floor as you consider the final bill.

On behalf of the patients we represent, we thank you again for your leadership in including all of the site-specific cancers in the PRCRPs for Fiscal Year 2020 and for considering our request to support at least the House funding levels in the final bill. Please contact Megan Gordon Don at (202) 246-8095 or mdgon@mgdstrategies.com if you have any questions or would like to further discuss our requests.

Sincerely,

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Gastroenterological Association
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
Go2 Foundation for Lung Cancer
Hepatitis B Foundation
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation
National Brain Tumor Society
National Pancreas Foundation
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
TargetCancer Foundation