

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we write to express our support for increased funding for the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

Cancer is a relentless disease that impacts millions of Americans. Just this year more than 1.9 million people in the US are expected to be diagnosed with cancer, and over 600,000 Americans will die from the disease. Cancer not only impacts individuals and families across the country, but it also costs our economy more than \$216 billion annually in direct treatment costs and lost productivity.

But there is hope. Because of the previous congressional investment in cancer research, more than 16.9 million American cancer survivors are alive today, and we are enjoying a quarter century of sustained declines in cancer mortality. As of 2018, the cancer death rate for men and women combined has fallen 31 percent from its peak in 1991. This decline represents roughly 3.2 million deaths avoided between 1991 and 2018. Between 2017 and 2018, cancer death rates in America fell 2.4 percent – the largest single-year drop ever.

Thanks to bipartisan, bicameral support, medical research at the NIH and cancer research at NCI are back on the path of promise and discovery. However, the NCI is experiencing a demand for research funding that is far beyond that of any other Institute or Center (IC). Between FY 2013 and FY 2018, the number of R01 (investigator-initiated) grant applications to NCI rose by 45.9 percent. For all other ICs during that time, the number of R01 applications rose by just 4.9 percent.

As a result of this extraordinary demand from the scientific community, the success rate for grant applications at NCI dropped from 13.7 percent in FY 2013 to 11.3 percent in FY 2018. This is a

situation unique to NCI, at a time when cancer researchers are making historic advances in new treatments and therapies. The success rate for NIH overall during that same period actually rose from 16.8 percent to 20.2 percent.

Recognizing this situation, Congress acted by dedicating new funding in FY 2020 to address this precipitous decline in the success rate for research project grant (RPG) applications at NCI. To continue the progress that has led to medical breakthroughs for treatment and therapies for millions of cancer patients, the NCI needs an increased, sustainable federal investment.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also had a substantial impact on the cancer community. Fear of the virus has led to the delay of screening and/or treatment for thousands of patients. Over the next decade, NCI estimates there will be an additional 10,000 deaths from breast and colorectal cancer alone due to missed or delayed screenings that could have caught the disease early. Cancer research has also been significantly disrupted by the pandemic, and as cancer cases and deaths increase as an indirect consequence of COVID, there will be additional pressure on the cancer research community to find new ways to prevent, treat, and cure cancer. Congress must continue to commit to increased funding for NCI to re-gain the ground lost by the interruption, and in some cases termination, of vital cancer research caused by this public health crisis over the past year.

Therefore, Congress should provide at least \$7.609 billion in overall funding for the National Cancer Institute in Fiscal Year 2022.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to provide critical funding for this life-saving research.

Sincerely,



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Member of Congress

/s/ Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

/s/ Colin Allred
Member of Congress

/s/ Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress

/s/ Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

/s/ Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

/s/ Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

/s/ Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

/s/ Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

/s/ Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

/s/ Cori Bush
Member of Congress

/s/ Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

/s/ G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

/s/ Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

/s/ André Carson
Member of Congress

/s/ Sean Casten
Member of Congress

/s/ David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

/s/ Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

/s/ Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

/s/ Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

/s/ Jason Crow
Member of Congress

/s/ Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress

/s/ Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

/s/ Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

/s/ Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

/s/ Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress

/s/ Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

/s/ Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

/s/ Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

/s/ Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress

/s/ Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

/s/ Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

/s/ Bill Foster
Member of Congress

/s/ Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress

/s/ Jared Golden
Member of Congress

/s/ Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress

/s/ Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

/s/ Bob Good
Member of Congress

/s/ Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

/s/ Al Green
Member of Congress

/s/ Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress

/s/ Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

/s/ Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

/s/ Jim Himes
Member of Congress

/s/ Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress

/s/ Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

/s/ Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

/s/ Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

/s/ Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress

/s/ William R. Keating
Member of Congress

/s/ Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

/s/ Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

/s/ Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

/s/ Conor Lamb
Member of Congress

/s/ Al Lawson
Member of Congress

/s/ Andy Levin
Member of Congress

/s/ Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

/s/ Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

/s/ Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress

/s/ Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

/s/ A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

/s/ David B. McKinley P.E.
Member of Congress

/s/ Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

/s/ Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

/s/ Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress

/s/ Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

/s/ Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress

/s/ Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress

/s/ Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

/s/ Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

/s/ Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

/s/ Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

/s/ Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

/s/ Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

/s/ Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

/s/ Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress

/s/ Katie Porter
Member of Congress

/s/ Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

/s/ Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

/s/ Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress

/s/ Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

/s/ Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

/s/ Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress

/s/ Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress

/s/ Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/ Robert C. “Bobby” Scott
Member of Congress

/s/ Albio Sires
Member of Congress

/s/ Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress

/s/ Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

/s/ Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress

/s/ Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress

/s/ Haley Stevens
Member of Congress

/s/ Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

/s/ Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

/s/ Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

/s/ Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

/s/ Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress

/s/ Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

/s/ Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

/s/ John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

/s/ Don Young
Member of Congress