



November 29, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Member Organizations

*American Association
for Cancer Research*

*American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network*

*American Childhood
Cancer Organization*

*American College
of Radiology*

*American Society of
Clinical Oncology*

*American Society
of Hematology*

*Association of American
Cancer Institutes*

*Coalition of Cancer
Cooperative Groups*

Friends of Cancer Research

*International Cancer
Advocacy Network*

*International Myeloma
Foundation*

Kidney Cancer Association

*The Lustgarten Foundation
for Pancreatic Cancer
Research*

*Lymphoma Research
Foundation*

Melanoma Research Alliance

*Ovarian Cancer Research
Fund Alliance*

Prevent Cancer Foundation

Prostate Cancer Foundation

*The Society of Gynecologic
Oncology*

*Society for Immunotherapy
of Cancer*

*The V Foundation for
Cancer Research*

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

NCCR is the advocacy companion organization of the National Coalition for Cancer Research. Its mission is to educate public policy makers, legislators and their staff about the impact of legislative initiatives on cancer research. Specifically, the NCCR advocates on behalf of legislation that will enhance and expand basic, translational and clinical research, and ensure that the infrastructure and reimbursement mechanisms are in place to support the translation of research from the laboratory to the bedside. The NCCR supports these goals in the broadest terms, emphasizing national priorities essential to progress in cancer research, education, treatment, early detection and prevention.

The NCCR member organizations below are writing to express our strong support for passage of the 21st Century Cures Act, and to provide the necessary funding for the National Cancer Moonshot Initiative, prior to the adjournment of the 114th Congress. Each of these important programs will have a profound impact on accelerating cancer research, education, prevention, detection and treatment. It is essential that Congress consider and pass them this year so that work can begin immediately to implement the strategies which are essential to cancer and the public. There is so much interest and enthusiasm in the cancer community stemming from your efforts on these important programs – we are eager to leverage that momentum that will result in faster progress for patients.

The 21st Century Cures Act, which was approved by the House of Representatives with strong bipartisan support, will have a profound impact on cancer research. It will enhance the ability to more effectively utilize large volumes of data for research, further the development of precision medicine and accelerate the pace of clinical trials through the required use of centralized Institutional Review Boards. Furthermore, the legislation will reduce burdensome and duplicative paperwork requirements, which consume time that would be better spent devoted to research activities. We also strongly support the objective of investing in the future of biomedical research through the emphasis on promoting young investigators to remain in cancer research. We are also supportive of provisions which encourage patient-focused drug development to gather data for a comprehensive risk-benefit analysis of new cancer therapeutics.

The National Cancer Moonshot Initiative, which was developed with strong support and involvement of the scientific, practitioner and patient advocacy communities, establishes a blueprint for achieving the ambitious objective of making a decade's worth of cancer research progress in five years and to bring the most promising science and clinical developments to all cancer patients. The Cancer Moonshot Blue Ribbon Panel Report outlines effective strategies to advance some of the most promising areas of cancer research.

These include cancer immunotherapy, targeted cancer therapeutics, symptom management research, evidence-based cancer prevention and detection strategies, development of human tumor atlases, creation of a national cancer data ecosystem, and the establishment of networks for direct patient engagement in cancer research. Each of these areas will accelerate the pace of cancer research and lead to the rapid development of new and innovative approaches to cancer prevention, detection, research and treatment. We believe it is essential that funding for the Cancer Moonshot program be directed to the National Cancer Institute, which played a vital role in the development of the Blue Ribbon Panel recommendations. Direct funding to the National Cancer Institute will ensure that these critical research projects will be able to proceed without delay. It is our strong desire that provisions be included in the 21st Century Cures legislation to provide the necessary funding to make the goals of the National Cancer Moonshot program a reality.

NCCR is extremely grateful for the dedication of Members of Congress, working in a bipartisan manner, to develop the 21st Century Cures legislation. We are especially grateful for the inclusive process employed by Congress, which provided the research and patient advocacy communities with the opportunity to help shape the legislation and its objectives.

We are living in an era of unprecedented advances in our understanding of cancer, which have led to the development of treatments that were unthinkable a short time ago, such as cancer immunotherapy and targeted cancer therapeutics. We must harness the expertise, commitment and energy of the scientific and patient communities throughout the world to continue and build on that knowledge.

On behalf of the millions of cancer patients and their families, cancer researchers, medical professionals and cancer survivors and others, we implore Congress to approve passage of these vital programs prior to the adjournment of the 114th Congress so that work can begin immediately to implement the numerous provisions that will accelerate and strengthen our nation's cancer research program. We stand ready to work with you to accomplish these goals.

Sincerely,

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