



A PATIENT-CENTERED FORUM OF NATIONAL ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES IN CANCER

March 11, 2008

Dear Senator:

The undersigned cancer patient, provider, and research organizations request your support for the amendment offered by Senators Specter and Harkin to add \$2.1 billion to the budget for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This amendment, to be offered during consideration of the FY 2009 Budget Resolution (S.Con.Res. 70), would bring the total increase for NIH in the budget resolution to \$3 billion.

Since FY 2003, funding for NIH has been stagnant, failing to keep pace with biomedical research inflation. The impact on NIH has been significant as the agency has lost 10 percent of its purchasing power since the completion of the NIH doubling in FY 2003. And that stagnation translates into research opportunities lost and new research avenues ignored. The NIH budget freeze proposed by the Bush Administration for FY 2009 poses a continuing threat to research progress.

The period of the doubling of the NIH budget has been hailed as a time when basic science advanced and fundamental knowledge regarding cancer and other life-threatening diseases exploded. The translation of that scientific knowledge into new treatments is being stymied by flat NIH funding, as established researchers face funding cuts, young investigators struggle to receive grants, and clinical trials are slowed. The Specter-Harkin amendment seeks to reverse the trend in NIH funding and boost the resources available for biomedical research.

We urge you to vote "yes" on the Specter-Harkin NIH amendment.

Sincerely,

American Psychosocial Oncology Society  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Society for Therapeutic Radiology &  
Oncology  
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network  
C3: Colorectal Cancer Coalition  
Cancer Care  
The Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy  
Coalition of Cancer Cooperative Groups  
Gilda's Club Worldwide  
International Myeloma Foundation  
Kidney Cancer Association  
Lance Armstrong Foundation  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Lung Cancer Alliance

Lymphoma Research Foundation  
Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship  
National Lung Cancer Partnership  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
North American Brain Tumor Coalition  
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance.  
Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Sarcoma Foundation of America  
Susan G. Komen for the Cure Advocacy  
Alliance  
Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education  
and Support Network  
The Wellness Community  
Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization

Contact: 2446 39th Street NW • Washington, D.C. 20007

Phone: 202-333-4041 • Fax: 202-333-4081 • [www.cancerleadership.org](http://www.cancerleadership.org)