



**Association of
American Cancer Institutes**

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April 27, 2017

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Washington, DC 20510

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Dear Chairmen Cochran and Blunt, Vice Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Murray:

The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) represents 97 National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated and academic-based cancer research programs in North America that excel in cancer research, clinical care and education. AACI institutions house more than 20,000 scientific, clinical and public health investigators who work collaboratively to translate research findings into new approaches to prevent and treat cancer. AACI institutions are beacons of discovery, largely funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and NCI, agencies which rely on stable, predictable federal funding in order to invest in groundbreaking cancer research.

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AACI centers are grateful for the bipartisan support Congress has shown for biomedical research in general and cancer research in particular. Last year, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a funding level for the NIH in Fiscal Year 2017 at \$34.1 billion. AACI appreciated this recommendation and asks that Congress ensures that level is reached for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2017 and that Congress rejects any cut to the NIH and NCI. Any reduction to the NIH and NCI threatens to diminish academic cancer centers' ability to develop and discover breakthrough therapies and treatments for patients, and potentially sideline promising research projects that are still under review for funding.

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Federal investment in cancer research is necessary to ensure that the momentum in scientific discovery achieved over the past few years will continue to yield important advances in patient care. As of January 2016, there are 15.5 million cancer survivors in the United States - over four times the number of survivors in 1975. However, an estimated 1.69 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer in 2017. Increased federal funding is urgently needed in order for cancer centers to continue to make life-saving discoveries which are ultimately improving patient outcomes.

Thomas A. Sellers, PhD
Moffitt Cancer Center

Norman Sharpless, MD
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Cancer Center

Eduardo Sotomayor, MD
GW Cancer Center

Ensuring stable, predictable funds are provided to the NIH in Fiscal Year 2017 and beyond, will allow academic cancer centers to continue to improve cancer treatment outcomes for all patients battling cancer.

Thank you for your commitment to the NIH and NCI.

Sincerely,

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