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Dear Colleague:

Pancreatic cancer is the only major cancer with a five-year survival rate still in the single digits -- just 6%. Even more surprising, that rate hasn't changed significantly in nearly 40 years. This problem takes on heightened urgency given that the number of pancreatic cancer cases is projected to increase by 55% in the next two decades.

The *Pancreatic Cancer Research & Education Act* would confront this challenge by authorizing the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to develop a strategic plan to fight pancreatic cancer and give patients real hope for survival. The legislation doesn't meddle in NCI's work, but simply helps NCI develop a solid research plan for attacking this disease--the fourth leading cause of cancer-related death. That plan will provide a defined roadmap for success instead of leaving the needed discoveries to chance.

There are currently no early detection tools or treatments for pancreatic cancer. We simply do not have the luxury of waiting another 40 years to develop these tools. I believe that the time has come to ensure that progress is made on this devastating disease and so recently introduced S. 3320. It is worth noting that the House companion bill, H.R. 745, currently has over 180 bipartisan co-sponsors. I urge you to join me as a co-sponsor of S. 3320. Please contact [Nick Bath@whitehouse.senate.gov](mailto:Nick_Bath@whitehouse.senate.gov) (4-2921) for more information or to become a co-sponsor.

Sincerely,



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator