



Summary of the *Pancreatic Cancer Research & Education Act*

Pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest cancers with a five-year survival rate of just 6%. Survival rates for pancreatic cancer have remained in the single digits for nearly forty years. The *Pancreatic Cancer Research & Education Act* is the first-ever substantive bill that addresses the needs of the pancreatic cancer research community. This bill would create a path for true progress by encouraging targeted research efforts, developing a cadre of committed scientists, and promoting physician and public awareness, and it would require accountability for these efforts. The legislation is based on the *National Plan to Advance Pancreatic Cancer Research*, a report developed by the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network's Scientific Advisory Board. The bill, introduced in the House by U.S. Representatives Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and Leonard Lance (R-NJ) and in the Senate by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), has four key components.

Developing a Strategic Plan for Pancreatic Cancer Research

- The bill does not dictate how the National Cancer Institute (NCI) should conduct pancreatic cancer research. Instead, it calls for a strategic plan to be created every five years under the direction of the Health & Human Services (HHS) Secretary and in consultation with the Directors of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the NCI, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as a new Interdisciplinary Pancreatic Cancer Coordinating (IPCC) Committee comprising pancreatic cancer research experts, young pancreatic cancer investigators, and a pancreatic cancer advocate.
- The long-term and comprehensive five-year strategic plan would detail the steps needed to conduct and to support pancreatic cancer research and awareness activities. To improve accountability, the plan would be submitted to the HHS Secretary and published on the agency's website.
- Annually, the Secretary would submit to Congress a report that identifies the steps taken to implement the recommendations in the strategic plan.

Establishing a Cancer Research Incubator Pilot Project for the Deadliest Cancers

- A new five-year grant pilot project would be created at the NCI specifically for research into the most deadly cancers, defined as those with five-year survival rates below 50%. The initial phase would include pancreatic cancer. Following the initial phase, the Secretary would submit to Congress a report evaluating the program and making recommendations for the continuation and/or expansion into other cancers that meet the criteria.

Strengthening and Expanding Centers of Excellence for Pancreatic Cancer

- The legislation builds on the Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORE), a program created by Congress in the 1990s specifically for breast and prostate cancers. SPORE was expanded in the last several years to not only provide increased opportunities for research into these cancers, but to also offer some limited research opportunities for pancreatic and other cancers.
- The legislation calls for the designation of at least two additional pancreatic cancer SPOREs.

Promoting Physician and Public Awareness

- The legislation calls for the NIH and CDC, in collaboration with patient advocacy organizations, to develop a toolkit for patients and a program to educate primary care providers about pancreatic cancer.

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is a nationwide network of people dedicated to working together to advance research, support patients and create hope for those affected by pancreatic cancer.