



March 7, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran and Ranking Member Durbin:

On behalf of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, I am writing to urge you to continue the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) at no less than \$50 million, and respectfully ask that you continue to include pancreatic cancer as a disease eligible for research funding through this program.

This year, pancreatic cancer surpassed breast cancer to become the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the U.S. While survival rates for many cancers have steadily improved, pancreatic cancer is the only major cancer with a survival rate in the single digits—at *just eight percent*. Nearly three-fourths of those diagnosed with pancreatic cancer will die within a year of their diagnosis. This year, more than 53,000 Americans will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and nearly 42,000 will die from this disease. Even more troubling than these grim statistics are projections that pancreatic cancer is on pace to surpass colorectal cancer to become the *second* leading cause of cancer-related death within the next four years.

Pancreatic cancer research has been a part of PRCRP since 2011, resulting in 24 research grants for a total of \$9 million. This funding has helped advance research on earlier detection of pancreatic cancer, better understanding of the prognosis of pancreatic cancer patients and improving the well-being of individuals with a pancreatic cancer diagnosis.

I strongly urge you to maintain pancreatic cancer as a field of research eligible for funding through the PRCRP and to provide no less than \$50 million for this vital research program. With your support, we can ensure that adequate resources are available for making pancreatic cancer, its early detection and improved treatment a national priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Gordon Don". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Megan Gordon Don
Vice President, Government Affairs & Advocacy

cc: U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense



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