



January 26, 2017

Dear Member of Congress:

Last year, Congress took an important step toward providing new hope for all types of patients by including authorization for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding in the 21st Century Cures Act and by including funding for the Cancer Moonshot in the FY17 Continuing Resolution. As the 115th Congress begins, I am writing to ask that you once again make cancer research funding one of your key legislative priorities for the year.

Pancreatic cancer is a good example of why cancer research funding must continue to be one of our nation's top funding priorities – and why there needs to be predictable and sustainable increases for the NIH and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). It is now the third leading cause of cancer-related death with a five-year survival rate of just 9 percent. Because pancreatic cancer is one of our nation's deadliest cancers, with no early detection methods and few treatment options, federal funding for research is critical to changing the statistics. As a member of Congress, you have the power advance policies that will change the lives of current and future pancreatic cancer patients.

Specifically, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network calls on you to:

- Put the NIH on a path of sustained growth by passing a FY2017 appropriations bill that includes the Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$34.1 billion for the NIH and the \$60 million approved for the Department of Defense Peer-Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP).
- Continue to support critical research on diseases like pancreatic cancer by passing a FY2018 appropriations bill that increases the NIH budget by at least \$2 billion and provides \$300 million in additional funding for the Cancer Moonshot as designated in the 21st Century Cures Act. It is critical that the funding for the Cancer Moonshot supplement, not supplant, appropriated funding for the NIH and/or the NCI.
- Include pancreatic cancer once again in the Defense Department's Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) and provide a funding increase for the program.
- Support deadliest cancers – defined by the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act of 2012 as cancers with five-year survival rates below 50 percent – by joining the Congressional Caucus on the Deadliest Cancers, and by ensuring that there are no lapses in health coverage for this critical population.
- Continue to monitor the implementation of the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act - legislation that is opening new avenues of NCI-supported research for pancreatic cancer.

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is committed to doubling survival for pancreatic cancer by 2020 and has invested over \$40 million to date on innovative research. We



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respectfully request that you work with us to achieve our 2020 goal, which has now been adopted by the broader pancreatic cancer research community. On behalf of the organization and the hundreds of thousands of Americans we represent, we look forward to working with you to Wage Hope against this dreadful disease.

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