

- American Lung Association • Addi's Cure •
 - American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network • American Thoracic Society •
 - Beverly Fund Lung Cancer Foundation • Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation •
 - Caring Ambassadors Lung Cancer Program • Gianni Ferrarotti Lung Cancer Foundation •
 - Jeni Fund for Women's Lung Cancer Research • Joan Gaeta Lung Cancer Foundation •
 - Kate MacIntyre Foundation • Lung Cancer Circle of Hope •
 - Lung Cancer Foundation of America • National Lung Cancer Partnership •
 - Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago •
 - Rexanna's Foundation for Fighting Lung Cancer • Upstage Lung Cancer
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February 24, 2010

The Honorable Thomas Harkin
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Cochran:

The undersigned organizations write today to ask for a significant increase in funding for lung cancer research, treatment, prevention and patient services for fiscal year 2011.

Lung cancer is the leading cancer killer in the U.S, killing almost 160,000 people every year. Lung cancer has one of the highest incidence rates and one of the lowest survival rates. Smoking is the biggest cause of this disease, but exposure to second-hand smoke, air pollution, radon, asbestos, and other occupational hazards also cause this dread disease.

Each year, more than 219,000 new cases are diagnosed but tragically, only 16 percent of lung cancers are diagnosed at an early stage – making most diagnoses a death sentence. Advances in cancer prevention and treatment research have increased breast and colorectal cancer survival rates to 89 and 65 percent respectively, whereas lung cancer survival rates remain at a low 15 percent. More must be done to increase lung cancer survivorship.

Increased national attention to lung cancer is long overdue. There has been success in reducing other forms of cancer by a robust investment in research. We ask for your leadership in ensuring that lung

cancer is made a priority in the FY 2011 appropriations. Research for this deadly disease must be expanded so that surviving lung cancer becomes the norm instead of the exception.

Thank you for your continued leadership on this and many other health issues.

Sincerely,

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