



May 16, 2017

Dear Senator X:

On behalf of the nearly 54,000 Americans who will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this year, I thank you for passing the Fiscal Year 2017 Omnibus Appropriations bill, which included a \$2 billion increase in National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding and a \$10 million increase for the Department of Defense's Peer-Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP).

Currently, only 9% of Americans diagnosed with pancreatic cancer survive more than five years. These funding increases, including the 9% total funding increase for the National Cancer Institute (NCI), are critical in reaching our goal of doubling pancreatic cancer survival by 2020.

Now that you are turning your attention to Fiscal Year 2018, I ask that you support this goal by signing the Whitehouse-Crapo Dear Colleague letter to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense which urges the subcommittee to maintain pancreatic cancer as a disease eligible for research funding through the PRCRP in Fiscal Year 2018.

The PRCRP supports innovative, competitively-awarded cancer research that benefits both our military warfighters and veterans. Research shows that our military personnel and veterans face an increased risk for pancreatic cancer as a result of exposure to agents such as heavy metals, chlorinated hydrocarbons, DDT, as well as a suggested higher risk for other pesticides including Agent Orange.

The high-risk, high-reward scientific research grants funded through the PRCRP play an important role in the fight against pancreatic cancer. Each year, Congress must expressly state which cancers are to be included in the PRCRP. Pancreatic cancer has been included in the program since 2011, and the DoD has awarded 32 pancreatic cancer research grants for a total of \$12.2 million. Previous PRCRP funding for pancreatic cancer has helped to improve early detection, better understand its prognosis and improve the well-being of individuals facing a pancreatic cancer diagnosis.

We would greatly appreciate your support for including pancreatic cancer in this critical program once again. Please contact Elena Elkin in Sen. Whitehouse's office (Elena_Elkin@whitehouse.senate.gov) or Rebecca Alcorn in Sen. Crapo's office (Rebecca_Alcorn@crapo.senate.gov) to sign by this **Wednesday, May 17**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Megan Gordon Don". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Megan Gordon Don
Vice President, Government Affairs & Advocacy



National Office
1500 Rosecrans Ave. Ste 200
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
Main 877 272 6226 | Fax 310 725 0029

Government Affairs & Advocacy Office
1050 Connecticut Ave. NW, Ste. 500
Washington, DC 20036
Main 202 742 6699 | Fax 202 742 6518