C·Change
Collaborating to Conquer Cancer

November 6, 2013

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Senate Budget Committee
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member
Senate Budget Committee
326 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Chairman
House of Representatives
Committee on the Budget
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Ranking Member
House of Representatives
Committee on the Budget
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: Request to sustain the Prevention and Public Health Fund

Dear Chairmen Ryan and Murray and Ranking Members Sessions and Van Hollen:

As leaders in cancer from the treatment, research, and business communities, we have come together under C-Change, a 501(c)(3) committed to reducing cancer deaths using evidence-based strategies across the spectrum from prevention to end of life care. **We ask that the federal government make substantial, annual investments in prevention efforts to reduce the risk of cancer that are no less than their current level**. Over 500,000 Americans will die of cancer in 2013.[i] This is despite the fact that we can prevent about half of these cancer cases through reducing tobacco use, improving the quality of the foods that we eat, and increasing our levels of physical activity. More cancer deaths are preventable by following the recommended United States Preventive Services Task Force cancer screening guidelines. Through federal funding for prevention, you have the power to support these changes by offering Americans more opportunities to make healthier choices, more easily.

Investing in cancer risk reduction will not only save lives, but will also reduce the amount of money that this country is spending on healthcare. Investments in prevention have a 5 to 1 return on investment.[ii] This means that fewer American families are burdened with the pain and suffering related to cancer, and our healthcare system has more resources for improved treatments for remaining patients.

The Prevention and Public Health Fund was designed to save lives through prevention and reductions in the rate of growth in private and public healthcare costs, yet it continues to be under threat. In 2012, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act reduced the Prevention and Public Health Fund by $6.25 billion over 10 years to temporarily extend unemployment benefits and avert Medicare payment cuts. We reject being forced to make a

false choice between prevention, treatment, and research. We have to invest in each. To realize the return on investment, and to protect America from unnecessary sickness and death from cancer, **we ask that you support that use of Prevention and Public Health Fund be exactly as intended at current levels, and that it no longer be used to fulfill shortfalls in other aspects of healthcare, or otherwise.**

Respectfully,

David S. Alberts, MD
Regents Professor of Medicine, Pharmacology and Public Health
Director, University of Arizona Cancer Center

Edward J. Benz, Jr., MD, FACP
President and Chief Executive Officer, Dana Farber Cancer Institute

Nancy E. Davidson, MD
Director, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute and UPMC Cancer Center

Brian J. Druker, MD
Director, Knight Cancer Institute, Oregon Health and Sciences University

Roy A. Jensen, MD
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The University of Kansas Cancer Center
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Samir N. Khleif, MD
Director, Georgia Regent University Cancer Center

Robert S. Mannel, MD
Director, Peggy and Charles Stephenson Cancer Center
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Frank L. Meyskens, Jr., MD., FACP
Vice Dean, School of Medicine, University of California, Irvine
Director Emeritus, Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

William Nelson, MD, PhD
Director, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, Johns Hopkins University

Edward Partridge, MD
Director, UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Steven T. Rosen, M.D.
Director, Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University

Thomas A. Sellers, PhD
Director, Cancer Center & Research Institute
Executive Vice President
Moffitt Cancer Center

Ian M. Thompson, MD
Director, Cancer Therapy and Research Center
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Cheryl L. Willman, MD
The Maurice & Marguerite Liberman Distinguished Chair in Cancer Research
Professor of Pathology and Internal Medicine
Director & CEO, University of New Mexico Cancer Center

CC:
The Honorable Harry Reid
The Honorable Tom Harkin
The Honorable Lamar Alexander
The Honorable John McCain
The Honorable Jeff Flake
The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
The Honorable Ed Markey
The Honorable Bob Casey, Jr.
The Honorable Jerry Moran
The Honorable Pat Roberts
The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
The Honorable John Hardy Isakson
The Honorable Tom Coburn
The Honorable Jim Inhofe
The Honorable Diane Feinstein
The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Ben Cardin
The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
The Honorable Richard Shelby
The Honorable Marc Rubio
The Honorable Ted Cruz
The Honorable John Cornyn
The Honorable Tom Udall
The Honorable Martin Heinrich
The Honorable Mark Kirk
The Honorable Dick Durbin

Speaker John Boehner
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Tom Cole
The Honorable Tom Price
The Honorable Diane Black
The Honorable James Clyburn
The Honorable Nita Lowey
The Honorable Fred Upton
The Honorable Henry Waxman

Senate Budget Committee

[i] American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2013. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2013.
[ii] Trust for America's Health. Prevention for a Healthier America: Investments in Disease Prevention yield significant savings, stronger communities. 2008. Available at http://healthyamericans.org/reports/prevention08/Prevention08.pdf.