

CHARLENE MIERS FOUNDATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH

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January 20, 2011

Honorable Denny Rehberg
2448 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

FY 2011 and FY 2012 Appropriations
National Cancer Institute

Dear Congressman Rehberg:

Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research is a not for profit cancer advocacy organization in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It is named and established in honor and memory of Charlene B. Miers who died of incurable brain cancer on November 10, 2007, after bravely trying to overcome the disease through surgery, radiation and chemotherapy for 17 months.

Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research asks you to vote for Congressional appropriations to the National Cancer Institute in the following amounts:

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|------------------|---------------|
| Fiscal Year 2011 | \$5.7 billion |
| Fiscal Year 2012 | \$5.7 billion |

Our goal is for scientists and doctors to find a cure for cancer as soon as possible. We ask you to support the fight against cancer by approving increased federal appropriations for scientific research.

Our organization is a member of One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a collaborative group with more than thirty other organizations in the U.S. that commonly support life saving cancer research. OVAC membership includes the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Friends of Cancer Research, Lance Armstrong Foundation and Susan G. Komen for the Cure Advocacy Alliance. OVAC member organizations are supported and speak for cancer patients, survivors and their families, and advocates across the United States, very likely including many individuals affected by the disease in Montana and your Congressional district.

OVAC and its collaborative membership and thousands of Americans who support their goals share the view that *increased* appropriations are essential at this time to achieve the difficult scientific discoveries needed to defeat cancer.

We urge you to find ways and vote to accomplish needed federal discretionary spending budget cuts without reducing urgently needed federal government funding required to conduct research essential to stop the horrific death toll from cancer and draining financial costs of cancer to the nation.

Cancer causes death of more than 569,000 persons in the United States a year. More than 1,500 people die of cancer every day, meaning *a person dies of cancer in the United States every minute*. The number of U.S. cancer deaths *each year* is now greater than total armed forces deaths in all of World War II.

Cancer costs in the United States are \$263.8 billion annually, which includes \$102.8 billion for direct medical costs (total of all health expenditures), \$20.9 billion for indirect morbidity costs (cost of lost productivity due to illness), and \$140.1 billion for indirect mortality costs (cost of lost productivity due to premature death). A study just released January 12, 2011, indicates based on growth and aging of the U.S. population, medical expenditures for cancer in the year 2020 are projected to reach at least \$158 billion (in 2010 dollars) – an increase of 27 percent over 2010. The report of the study also states that if newly developed tools for cancer diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up continue to be more expensive, medical expenditures for cancer could reach as high as \$207 billion.

One in two men and one in three women will have cancer in their lifetime. More than 1,500,000 new cancer cases will occur this year in the United States. There are over 11 million cancer patients or persons with a history of cancer in the United States.

More than 30% of cancer patients will not survive 5 years. More importantly, published information indicates there are certain most deadly forms of cancer that still cannot be treated with real hope of success, and half of cancer deaths have been caused by 8 forms of cancer with five-year relative survival rates of less than 50%: ovarian (45.5%), brain (35.0%), myeloma (34.9%), stomach (24.7%), esophagus (15.8%), lung (15.2%), liver (11.7%), and pancreas (5.1%). More alarming is that incidence of some of these forms of cancer is expected to increase while greater funding of research to find more effective prevention and treatment of them has not been available or committed.

Federal laws, including the National Cancer Act of 1971, authorize the National Cancer Institute to be principal agency for cancer research and to coordinate the National Cancer Program. The National Cancer Institute receives its funds from the Congress. These funds support research of scientists at the National Cancer Institute headquarters and in laboratories and medical centers throughout the United States, including Montana, to investigate the causes, prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer through various research projects and clinical trials.

Harold Varmus, M.D., Noble Prize winning scientist and the new Director of the National Cancer Institute, has commenced an aggressive plan to utilize all available resources for our country's best cancer scientists to ask and answer the most provocative questions that can lead to significant discoveries for ending cancer. This unique plan and the promise of

concentrating the thoughts and efforts of those leaders of scientific discovery in order to cure cancer should be given whatever funding is needed.

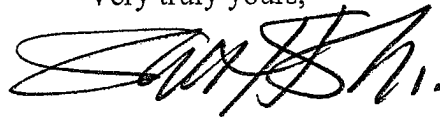
In recent years less than one-third (1/3) of promising cancer research projects of our leading scientists, institutes and universities requesting National Cancer Institute funding received needed grants. Increased funding to stop cancer's tragic mortality rate, and huge financial cost of the disease in your Congressional district and the rest of United States is urgently needed now. Though appropriations by Congress for that research may be classified as "discretionary", we believe there is no acceptable choice but to spend whatever is needed on science that can find a cure at the earliest possible date.

It has been reported since the fall 2010 election that newly elected members of Congress will join with others in the Senate and House of Representatives to cut federal appropriations and discretionary spending in order to reduce the national debt. We support reduced federal spending to assure fiscal strength of the nation. We also believe that across the board appropriation cuts for all essential programs, without consideration of the needs and goals involved is not advisable. Because of the extent of death and loss from cancer suffered in our country we believe federal expenditures for scientific research through the National Cancer Institute should be *increased* in fiscal years 2011 and 2012. This should be accomplished by spending reductions and savings in programs involving less urgent needs.

We ask that you please find a way to budget federal appropriations for predictable funding of essential long term scientific research programs on cancer. Also, we urge you to join with other leaders of Congress to chart and enact legislation providing more imaginative and productive collaboration between all federal and state government agencies, scientific institutes, medical centers, and private business, to discover the cause and a cure of cancer as soon as possible.

Thank you for considering this letter, voting for increased appropriations and acting to cure cancer as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,



Sheppard F. Miers, Jr.
President, Director
Charlene Miers Foundation
for Cancer Research