

TULSA WORLD

Letter to the editor: New report out on cancer

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By Sheppard F. Miers Jr., Tulsa

The annual report of the American Cancer Society of facts and figures about cancer has been published for 2015.

In 2015, 589,430 Americans are expected to die of cancer, or about 1,620 people per day. Approximately 1.6 million new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in the U. S. in 2015. The reported direct medical costs of cancer in the U. S. are \$88.7 billion. Behind the statistics are serious challenges facing every person cancer affects. The report says overcoming the toll of cancer requires lawmakers in Congress and states to make research on cell biology, access to health care and earlier diagnosis, and developing new drugs and treatment a highest national priority. Discovering how to prevent and control cancer is a long-term, complex and costly commitment. Lives will be saved by it. The Cancer Society nonprofit affiliate, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, encourages all of us to become actively involved in the national effort to defeat cancer. It provides easy online resources and instructions for you to join in advocating increased funding of cancer research.

Editor's note: Miers is director of the Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research in Tulsa.