

## **Tulsa World**

**Letter to the editor: Tom Cole valuable in fight against cancer**

**Sheppard F. Miers Jr., Tulsa | Posted: Sunday, August 2, 2015 12:00 am**

Oklahoma U.S. Rep. Tom Cole has provided valuable and thoughtful leadership for Oklahomans and the nation in the battle against cancer.

As chairman of the House Subcommittee for Appropriations for Health, he led the way in gaining a remarkably strong bipartisan vote for an extraordinary five-year annual appropriation to the National Institutes of Health. The funding increase is part of the 21st Century Cures Act that will make available more research dollars for younger scientists and accelerate discovery and treatment.

While recognizing long-term federal budget effects of this spending, he spoke convincingly about the policy advantages in the law. A key feature is a predictable source of additional funding for research on cancer and other diseases over a five-year period, which offers greater potential for dramatically improving health and quality of life for everyone in the nation.

Sheppard F. Miers Jr., Tulsa

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