



Oncology Nursing Society

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December 13, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I am writing to thank you for your continued bipartisan support and commitment to investments in the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR). As an organization dedicated to helping oncology nurses provide the highest quality care to patients with cancer, we respectfully urge you to support FY 2018 appropriations of \$36.1 billion to NIH, \$5.85 billion to NCI, and \$155.2 million to NINR, as approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee. ONS strongly believes that sustained, multi-year funding for cancer research and nursing science will help reduce and prevent suffering from cancer and advance quality cancer care.

ONS is a professional association of 40,000 members committed to promoting excellence in oncology nursing and the transformation of cancer care. Since 1975, ONS has provided a professional community for oncology nurses, developed evidence-based education programs and treatment information, and advocated for patient care, all in an effort to improve quality of life and outcomes for patients with cancer and their families. Together, ONS and the cancer community seek to reduce the risks, incidence, and burden of cancer by encouraging healthy lifestyles, promoting early detection, and improving the management of cancer symptoms and side effects throughout the disease trajectory.

As you are aware, more than 600,000 Americans are expected to die from cancer by the end of 2017, and that figure is expected to rise in future years as our population over age 65 increases. Over one and a half million new cancer cases are diagnosed each year, and cancer is the second leading cause of death in both adults and children. ONS is excited about the amazing progress

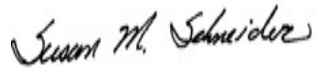
in cancer research and the new treatments now available, including precision medicine and immunotherapy, but we believe that greater investment is needed in NCI so its scientists can continue to do important cancer research to save more lives.

ONS members are engaged in many areas of research to improve oncology care and symptom management for patients with cancer, and we urge your continued support for NINR funding. NINR supports basic and clinical research that develops the knowledge to build the scientific foundation for clinical practice, prevent disease and disability, manage and eliminate symptoms caused by illness, and enhance end-of-life and palliative care. Nursing science transforms how care is delivered at the bedside, in the community, and in the home, and nurse researchers are on the cutting edge in their discoveries by incorporating precision health, data science, and evolving technology. Many of the findings from nursing science can be translated directly to practice, changing lives and wellness.

As you work together to finalize FY 2018 appropriations, ONS asks that Congress take action to raise the non-defense discretionary caps that would enable a \$2 billion increase in FY 2018 NIH funding to \$36.1 billion and \$5.85 billion for NCI. We also ask for your continued support of nursing research through NINR.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have further questions, please contact Donna (Dede) Sweeney, ONS Director of Government Affairs at dsweeney@ons.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan M. Schneider".

Susan Schneider, PhD, RN, AOCN®, FAAN
President, Oncology Nursing Society