

**American Lung Association • American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network •
American Thoracic Society • Beverly Fund • Caring Ambassadors Lung Cancer Program • Lung
Cancer Circle of Hope • Lung Cancer Foundation of America • Lung Cancer Research Foundation •
LUNgevity Foundation • National Lung Cancer Partnership • Protect Your Lungs •
Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago**

March 5, 2009

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiaht
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiaht:

The undersigned organizations write today to ask for a significant increase in funding for lung cancer research, treatment, prevention and patient services for fiscal year 2010.

Lung cancer is the leading cancer killer in the U.S, killing over 161,000 people every year. Lung cancer has one of the highest incidence rates and one of the lowest survival rates. Smoking is the biggest cause of this disease, but exposure to second-hand smoke, air pollution, radon, asbestos, and other occupational hazards also cause this dread disease.

Each year, more than 215,000 new cases are diagnosed but tragically, only 16 percent of lung cancers are diagnosed at an early stage – making most diagnoses a death sentence. Advances in cancer prevention and treatment research have increased breast and colorectal cancer survival rates to 89 and 64 percent respectively, whereas lung cancer survival rates remain at a low 15 percent. More must be done to increase lung cancer survivorship.

Increased national attention to lung cancer is long overdue. There has been success in reducing other forms of cancer by a robust investment in research. We ask for your leadership in ensuring that lung cancer is made a priority in the FY 2010 appropriations. Research for this deadly disease must be expanded so that surviving lung cancer becomes the norm instead of the exception.

Thank you for your continued leadership on this and many other health issues.

Sincerely,



Charles D. Connor
President and CEO
American Lung Association



Daniel E. Smith
President
American Cancer Society Cancer Action
Network



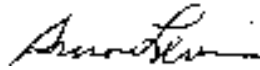
Jo Rae Wright, PhD
President
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Tracy Sestili
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Cindy Langhorne
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Susan Levin
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Lori Monroe
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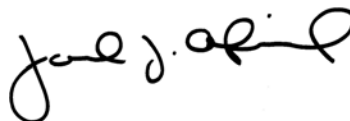
Beth Ida Stern
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