September 25, 2026

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Dr. Erica Schwartz
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Secretary Kennedy and Director Schwartz:

As organizations committed to reducing the burden of cancer and strengthening our nation's public health infrastructure, we urge the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to include $78.4 million for the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) in the Fiscal Year 2028 President's Budget request, including $63.4 million to support NPCR's core cancer surveillance activities and an additional $15 million dedicated to cancer surveillance data modernization.

For more than three decades, NPCR has provided the foundation for understanding the cancer burden across the country. Together with the National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program, our nation's central cancer registries provide population-based data that policymakers, researchers, clinicians, public health officials, patients, and communities rely upon to understand where cancer occurs, identify disparities, evaluate prevention and screening efforts, inform research, and measure progress against the disease. NPCR-supported registries collect data representing approximately 97 percent of the U.S. population.

Despite the growing importance of these data, NPCR has been funded at approximately $53.4 million annually since FY2023. Four consecutive years of essentially flat funding have functioned as a cut to the program. Personnel, technology, software, data infrastructure, and other operating costs have continued to rise while federal funding has remained essentially unchanged. At the same time, the demands placed on our nation's cancer surveillance system have grown.

NPCR and its state and territorial partners are increasingly being asked to do more with less. Registries must maintain comprehensive, high-quality cancer data while improving the timeliness of reporting and responding to evolving public health and research needs. Without an adjustment to NPCR's base funding level, rising costs will continue to consume resources that

would otherwise support the cancer registry workforce and the core surveillance activities upon which the nation's cancer control efforts depend. We therefore urge HHS and CDC to provide $63.4 million for NPCR's core activities in FY2028, an increase of $10 million above the program's current funding level.

Restoring NPCR's core capacity alone, however, is not sufficient to build the cancer surveillance system the country will need in the coming decade. Advances in health information technology provide an opportunity to fundamentally improve how cancer data are collected, transmitted, processed, and made available for public health purposes. Realizing that opportunity requires a dedicated investment in cancer surveillance data modernization rather than requiring registries to finance modernization from resources already needed to sustain their existing operations.

We therefore urge HHS and CDC to include an additional $15 million specifically for NPCR cancer surveillance data modernization in FY2028. Based on our understanding of the resources required to scale existing modernization efforts, this investment could support a phased expansion of real-time reporting capabilities to approximately half of state-based central cancer registries and pathology laboratories, while advancing Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) standards necessary to improve interoperability between cancer surveillance systems and healthcare provider electronic health records.

Together, these investments address two distinct but complementary needs. The $10 million increase in core NPCR funding would begin restoring capacity lost after years of flat funding, while the additional $15 million modernization investment would build new capabilities necessary for the future of cancer surveillance. In total, we urge the Administration to request $78.4 million for NPCR in FY2028. This investment would strengthen the value of the federal government's broader commitment to ultimately curing cancer. Cancer registries allow us to determine where cancer rates are rising or falling, identify populations experiencing disproportionate burdens, evaluate whether interventions are working, and direct limited resources where they can have the greatest impact.

Thank you for your continued commitment to reducing the burden of cancer. We stand ready to work with HHS and CDC to strengthen the nation's cancer surveillance infrastructure and ensure that policymakers, researchers, clinicians, and communities have the timely, high-quality data they need to improve cancer outcomes.

Sincerely,

National Cancer Registrars Association

Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention
American Indian Cancer Foundation
Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO)
Association of North Carolina Cancer Registrars

California Cancer Registrars Association
Cancer Registrars Association of New England (CRANE)
Cancer Registrars Association of the Dakotas (CRAD)
Cancer Support Community
College of American Pathologists
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Florida Cancer Registrars Association
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
HealthyWomen
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA)
Hope for Stomach Cancer
Louisiana Cancer Registrar's Association
Livestrong
Male Breast Cancer Global Alliance
Men's Health Network
METAvivor
National Black Nurses Association, Inc.
National Comprehensive Cancer Network
OCRA Ohio Cancer Registrars A
Oncology Nursing Society
Oncology Registrars Association of NJ
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance
PACR - Pennsylvania Association of Cancer Registrars
Patient Empowerment Network
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition (PPCC)
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Society of Breast Imaging
South Carolina Cancer Registrars Association
St. Baldrick’s Foundation
Susan G. Komen
The Latino Cancer Institute
The Tumor Registrar's Association of Connecticut
Triage Cancer
Unite for HER
Wisconsin Cancer Registrars Association (WCRA)
WSTRA
ZERO Prostate Cancer

Historic CDC-NPCR Annual Funding

Budget Activity/Description	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
NPCR-Cancer Registries	$46,524	$48,584	$47,858	$47,190	$46,366	$46,366	$51,236	$50,295	$50,014	$47,411	$49,440	$49,440

Budget Activity/Description	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
NPCR-Cancer Registries	$49,430	$49,436	$49,440	$51,440	$51,440	$51,440	$51,440	$53,440	$53,440	$53,440	$53,440