**Contact Your Members of Congress on Federal Research Funding**

**No Better Time Than Now!**

Every year, Congress must pass a bill to set the funding levels for federal government entities, including the National Institute of Health (NIH) and National Cancer Institute (NCI). Congress is now considering the proper funding levels for the upcoming fiscal year (FY23). Your experience as a researcher or health professional is invaluable to informing this process. There is no better time to contact your Members of Congress than today!

**Contacting Your Member’s Office**

Once you’ve identified your Members of Congress and attained their contact information, detailed in *Contacting Your Members of Congress: A Quick Guide*, it’s time to place a call or send an email. Remember to ask to speak with or leave a message for the office’s health staffer. Here is a script to use:

*Introduction*:

* Hi there, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_. I am a constituent living in \_\_\_\_\_ and working at \_\_\_\_\_\_ specializing in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I am calling today affiliated with the American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR), a nonprofit organization focused on the connection between healthy lifestyles and cancer prevention and survivorship, to advocate for increased funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). May I speak with your health staffer? [If unavailable], I’d be glad to leave a message.

*The Issue:*

* **I am calling today to ask Rep/Sen. [NAME] to support $49 billion in base funding for the NIH for FY 2023, as recommended by the** [**One Voice Against Cancer**](http://www.ovaconline.org/) **coalition and the** [**Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research.**](https://www.aamc.org/research/adhocgp/) **This should include $7.766 billion for the NCI, the amount recommended by NCI in its professional judgment budget.** This funding level would allow meaningful growth in the NIH’s base budget to keep pace with the current needs in biomedical research.
* **Additional funding should also be dedicated to the Cancer Moonshot and the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H).** However, this funding should not come at the expense of base funding for NIH and NCI. This additional funding is needed to accelerate progress in cancer research and innovation.

*Share your Story*:

* [Share a brief story of how NIH/NCI funding impacts your work or personal experience related to healthy lifestyles and cancer prevention and the need for regular, sustained funding increases].

*The Ask:*

* Can we count on Rep./ Senator [NAME] to support these funding levels?

*Conclusion:*

* Thank you very much for your support/consideration! It makes a real difference for funding pivotal research for cancer prevention and survivorship.
* I am here to be a resource for the office and would be glad to continue the dialogue. Here is an email address you can contact me at: \_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Appreciate your time today, thank you!