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January 20, 2022

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
U.S. House of Representatives
271 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
116 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Fitzpatrick and Dingell:

The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) would like to thank you for introducing H.R. 6342, the Knock Out Cancer Act, and to express AACI's support of the bill.

AACI represents 103 premier academic and freestanding cancer centers in the United States and Canada. AACI accelerates progress against cancer by facilitating interaction among cancer centers, educating policymakers, and fostering partnerships between cancer centers and like-minded organizations to improve the overall quality of cancer care.

AACI cancer centers have been on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, treating vulnerable and at-risk patients. In addition to the toll the coronavirus has taken on individuals, families, the health care system, and the economy, the pandemic has been the focal point of medical research for nearly two years. However, as your legislation acknowledges, cancer has not disappeared; in fact, it remains the second leading cause of death in the United States.

As you know, funding increases for the National Cancer Institute (NCI) have lagged behind those of other National Institutes of Health (NIH) institutes. This has resulted in a significantly lower success rate for NCI grants in comparison to the grant paylines for other NIH institutes. This discrepancy is causing great concern in the cancer community that a generation of talented cancer researchers could be lost due to the current difficulty in getting and sustaining cancer research funding over the course of a career. In addition, many worthy ideas are going without support in the current funding environment.

AACI cancer centers value your work and appreciate your ability to come together across party lines. The Knock Out Cancer Act is an example of the bipartisan decision-making desperately needed during this challenging time.

AACI is requesting meetings with both of your offices to discuss how we can support and help build momentum around this legislation. AACI Government Relations Manager Jaren Love will be in touch with your staff to coordinate this meeting.

On behalf of AACI cancer centers, thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Caryn Lerman".

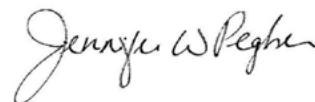
Caryn Lerman, PhD
President, AACI

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert A. Winn MD".

Robert A. Winn, MD
Vice President/President-elect, AACI

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Roy A. Jensen, MD
Immediate Past President, AACI

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer W. Pegher".

Jennifer W. Pegher, MA
Executive Director, AACI