

JIM COOPER
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COMMITTEES:
BUDGET
ARMED SERVICES
OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2007

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James I. Walsh
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 2051

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Walsh:

We urge the Labor/HHS/Education appropriations subcommittee to support FY08 funding levels that will provide the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with a 6.7 percent increase. The support that NIH and its principal agency for cancer research, the National Cancer Institute (NCI), provide for scientific research and education is critical to maintaining and advancing our nation's leadership in biomedical research and education.

While the NIH budget doubled between 1998 and 2003, funding in recent years has fallen behind, putting at risk the substantial progress we are beginning to make. This 6.7% request represents a down payment on getting NIH funding back to where it was at the end of the doubling, accounting for biomedical inflation.

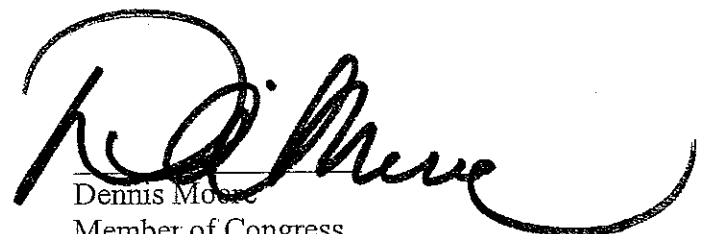
The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is the largest funding source for cancer research. It is the engine that drives new discovery and enables these discoveries to move rapidly from the laboratory to the bedside. This research produces results; between 2002-2003, the actual number of Americans dying from cancer dropped for the first time on record. That downward trend continued from 2003-2004. These declines occurred in spite of a larger and older US population.

With 80 million baby boomers facing retirement and the diseases of aging, the nation must increase its investment in medical science to cure or delay the onset of such conditions as Alzheimer's, cancer, heart attack and stroke.

We respectfully request your support for FY08 funding levels that will provide the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with a 6.7 percent increase.

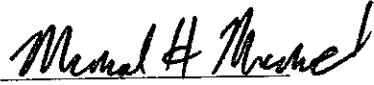

Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

Sincerely,


Dennis Moore
Member of Congress



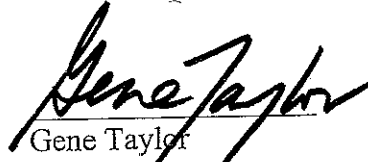
Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



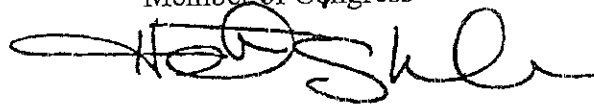
Michael Michaud
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Jim Matheson
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Gene Taylor
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