



March 11, 2013

Dear Senator/Assembly Member:

We are writing to urge you to restore the \$1 million state budget allocation for the NJ Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR) in the upcoming FY14 budget. The \$1 million state budget allocation was restored by the legislature in the current budget, but unfortunately the Governor again eliminated this vital funding in his proposed FY14 budget. We encourage you to restore this vital funding so that cancer research progress is not jeopardized in New Jersey.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the devastating toll that cancer takes on the state is enormous. In 2013, over 49,000 New Jersey residents will be diagnosed with cancer, and approximately 16,400 will die from the disease. New Jersey's cancer burden is one of the nation's highest, with incidence rates from all cancers combined higher than national rates.

For almost 30 years, the NJCCR has funded peer-reviewed cancer research grants and student fellowships at NJ research institutions. An independent study of NJCCR grant recipients show that these researchers leverage \$10 in federal funding for each \$1 in NJCCR funding. This national funding benefits NJ's world-class research institutions including Rutgers, CINJ, and Princeton Universities.

According to the HealthCare Institute of NJ, research and development spending by the life science industry in NJ totaled \$6.1 billion in 2011, an increase of 11.4%. The NJCCR has helped to initiate and sustain the careers of many cancer researchers and physicians who work in NJ's academic institutions, cancer centers, and in the pharmaceutical or biotechnology industry, all of which benefit NJ. Cancer care, treatment, and research translate into jobs.

Without the \$1 million state budget appropriation restored, the NJ State Commission on Cancer Research will not have the resources to continue to fund cancer research grants in FY14. Therefore, I urge you to restore this appropriation in the upcoming budget to secure New Jersey's position as a leader in the field of cancer research

Sincerely,



Anna Marie Skalka, PhD
Chair
NJ Commission on Cancer Research



Ethan Hasbrouck
State Advocacy Director, New Jersey
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Nancy Healey
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