



Headquarters Office:  
734 15<sup>th</sup> St, NW, Suite 300 Washington, DC 20005  
202.659.9709 Phone 202.974.7999 Fax 888.793.9355 Toll Free

New York City Office:  
165 West 46<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1002 New York, NY 10036  
917.305.1200 Phone 212.967.8717 Fax

Research & Training Institute:  
4100 Chamounix Drive, Fairmount Park Philadelphia, PA 19131  
215.878.0777 Phone 215.879.6575 Fax

May 26, 2017

The Honorable Mike Enzi  
Chair  
Senate Committee on the Budget  
379A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on the Budget  
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Diane Black  
Chair  
House Committee on the Budget  
1131 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Yarmuth  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on the Budget  
131 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Enzi and Sanders and Representatives Black and Yarmuth,

On behalf of the Cancer Support Community (CSC), which is the largest direct provider of social and emotional support services for people impacted by cancer, we are writing today to express deep concern over President Trump's FY18 budget "A New Foundation for American Greatness." This proposal would be devastating to patients, particularly those who depend on government and safety net programs for lifesaving services and resources. It would also decimate the country's biomedical research infrastructure, which has led to groundbreaking discoveries that have contributed to Americans living longer, healthier lives.

The President's proposed reductions to Medicaid and the nation's research infrastructure among other cuts to the nation's social safety net would have a devastating impact on the cancer community, including patients and their families, health care providers, researchers, and other stakeholders.

This budget would slash Medicaid by \$610 billion over the next decade, which would be in addition to the \$839 billion in Medicaid cuts proposed by the American Health Care Act (AHCA). The Congressional Budget Office predicts that this could cut off benefits for about 10 million people. Medicaid is a vital lifeline to millions of cancer patients, including 30 percent of childhood cancer survivors.<sup>1</sup> A study showed that after the Medicaid expansion went into place, patients with lung, breast, and colorectal cancer in those expansion states detected their

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<sup>1</sup> Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy. (2017). *The American health care act: What it would mean for children with cancer*. Retrieved from <http://www.childrenscause.org/blog/2017/3/14/the-american-health-care-act-what-would-it-mean-for-children-with-cancer>

cancer at earlier stages compared with nonexpansion states.<sup>2</sup> Simply put, these drastic, deep cuts to Medicaid funding would directly harm millions of cancer patients who rely on the program for cancer treatment and resources. These cuts are unconscionable.

Additionally, President Trump's call for a 22 percent, or \$6 billion, cut into the NIH budget would devastate the medical research community at large. This is \$7.7 billion less than NIH's fiscal 2017 budget of \$34.6 billion. The National Cancer Institute would receive a \$1.2 billion, or 20% cut compared to the FY17 funding level. The National Science Foundation would receive a 776 million, or 11%, cut. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would receive a \$1.2 billion, or 20%, cut. The Food and Drug Administration would also receive deep cuts, which would be replaced by increased user fees instead of government appropriations. Without continuous, sustainable, and appropriate funding levels for medical research and healthcare services, the incredible progress that the United States has made towards improving the health and wellbeing of all Americans would come to an abrupt halt.

In closing, we appreciate your attention to our concerns. We ask you to protect the health and wellbeing of Americans as you develop the FY18 budget that will guide this country. President Trump's proposed budget would negatively impact our entire healthcare infrastructure and ultimately the wellbeing of millions of Americans. We stand ready to serve as a resource to your work. I can be reached at [kim@cancersupportcommunity.org](mailto:kim@cancersupportcommunity.org) or (202) 659-9709.

Sincerely,



Kim Thiboldeaux  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cancer Support Community National Headquarters

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<sup>2</sup> Cortez, M. (2017). *Obamacare helped catch cancer earlier*. Retrieved from <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-05-17/obamacare-helped-catch-cancer-earlier-as-health-insurance-grew>