

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 28, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

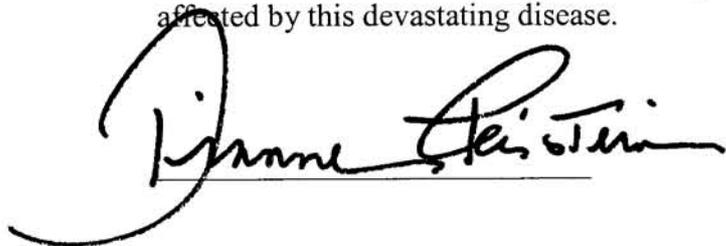
We are writing to express our commitment to and support for the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) goal of eliminating cancer death and suffering by the year 2015. Thanks to prior investments in cancer research and programs, we are making remarkable progress in the fight against cancer. Achieving the 2015 goal, which was established under your leadership, is now within our reach.

When Congress and President Nixon declared war against cancer in 1971, cancer was largely a death sentence. Three decades later, our national research investment has reaped remarkable returns. Today, early detection can defeat some of the common cancers, such as cancer of the cervix, breast, colon and prostate, which represent nearly half of all cancers. And, childhood cancer is curable in three out of four patients, despite the sad fact that solid tumors claim a great number of our children.

The development of colon cancer screening tests and treatments has led to a 90 percent five-year survival rate for colon cancers caught in the earliest, localized stage and 67 percent when the cancer has spread only to adjacent organs or lymph nodes. Once the cancer has spread to other parts of the body, the five-year survival rate drops to just ten percent. NCI research has also led to the development of molecularly-targeted drugs that attack only cancer cells while leaving healthy tissue unharmed. These are only two examples of the remarkable advances made through our national investment in cancer research.

Unfortunately, despite this progress, our fight is far from over. Cancer has now surpassed heart disease as the number one killer of Americans under age 85. Cancer strikes one out of every two men and one out of every three women. Two classrooms of children are diagnosed with cancer each day. And this year alone, cancer will claim the lives of more than 560,000 Americans. Eliminating death and suffering from cancer by the year 2015 will require a commitment by Congress to continue to make the fight against cancer a national priority.

We strongly support the Administration's 2015 goal and stand ready to work with the Administration and our colleagues in Congress to make it a reality for the millions of Americans affected by this devastating disease.



Sincerely,



cc: U.S. Senator Bill Frist, Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senator Harry Reid, Senate Minority Leader

Maria Canham

Murrell D. Feigold

Bill Nelson

Tom Carty

Patty Murray

Byron L. Dorgan

Debbie Stabenow

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Charles Schumer
Kent L...

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W. J. ...
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