

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 2, 2011

Dear Colleague:

As leaders of the bipartisan Senate Cancer Coalition, we urge you to support the attached resolution recognizing the month of May as National Cancer Research Month. In the 40 years since the National Cancer Act was signed into law, tremendous progress has been made in science, clinical research, and therapeutic development. This progress has led to advances in cancer prevention, detection, clinical cancer management, and most importantly, has saved countless lives.

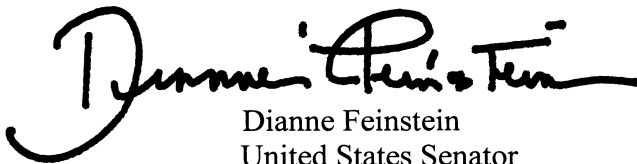
Through this resolution, we wish to recognize the contributions made by scientists and clinicians across the United States who are dedicated to finding a cure for all cancers. Unquestionably, the nation's investment in cancer research is having a remarkable impact. The evidence can be seen in the steadily declining cancer death rates and the fact that there are now 12 million Americans who are cancer survivors.

In the past 35 years, the five-year survival rate for all cancers combined has improved to more than 65 percent; for childhood cancers it has increased to 80 percent. We must celebrate these promising trends, but also increase our efforts to help the more than 1.5 million Americans who will be diagnosed with cancer this year and the over 560,000 individuals who will succumb to the disease.


At a time of unprecedented scientific opportunity, we are in a position to accelerate progress against cancer by advancing the wealth of scientific discoveries. We hope you will join us this month in celebration and support of this life-saving work by cosponsoring our resolution recognizing National Cancer Research Month.

If you have questions or to cosponsor the resolution, please contact Nora Connors in Senator Feinstein's office at nora_connors@feinstein.senate.gov or Jenifer Healy in Senator Hutchison's office at jenifer_healy@hutchison.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senator

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. _____

Recognizing the importance of cancer research and the contributions made by scientists and clinicians across the United States who are dedicated to finding a cure for cancer, and designating May 2011, as “National Cancer Research Month”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of cancer research and the contributions made by scientists and clinicians across the United States who are dedicated to finding a cure for cancer, and designating May 2011, as “National Cancer Research Month”.

Whereas in 2011, cancer remains one of the most pressing public health concerns in the United States, with 1,500,000 Americans expected to be diagnosed with cancer and more than 500,000 expected to die from the disease;

Whereas the term “cancer” refers to more than 200 diseases that collectively represent the leading cause of death for Americans under age 85, and the second leading cause of death for Americans overall;

Whereas the national investment in cancer research has yielded substantial returns in research advances and lives saved, with a scholarly estimate that every 1 percent decline in cancer mortality saves the United States economy \$500,000,000,000;

Whereas advancements in the understanding of the causes, mechanisms, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cancer have led to cures for many types of cancers and have converted other types of cancers into manageable chronic conditions;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for all cancers has improved during the 30 years prior to the date of approval of this resolution to more than 65 percent, and as of 2011, there are more than 12,000,000 cancer survivors living in the United States;

Whereas partnerships with research scientists and the general public, survivors and patient advocates, philanthropic organizations, industry, and Federal, State, and local governments have led to advanced breakthroughs, early detection tools that have increased survival rates, and a better quality of life for cancer survivors; and

Whereas advances in cancer research have had significant implications for the treatment of other costly diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, Alzheimer's disease, HIV/AIDS, and macular degeneration: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes the importance of cancer re-
3 search and the invaluable contributions of the re-
4 searchers in the United States and worldwide and
5 who are dedicated to reversing the cancer epidemic;

1 (2) designates May 2011, as “National Cancer
2 Research Month”; and

3 (3) supports efforts to make cancer research a
4 national and international priority so that one day
5 the more than 200 diseases known as cancer are
6 eliminated.