

December 13, 2016

Vice President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Vice President Biden,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), and the 37,000 laboratory researchers, physician-scientists, other health care professionals, and patient advocates who constitute our national and international membership, we wish to express our profound appreciation for your leadership of the National Cancer Moonshot Initiative during the past year. We also thank you for your personal outreach to secure significant funding for this historic effort in the 21st Century Cures Bill that just recently passed both houses of Congress by an overwhelming bipartisan majority.

Your amazing passion and extraordinary ability to inspire brought people together in ways rarely seen before in the pursuit of the vision you defined during your speech in the Rose Garden on October 21, 2015—specifically, that now is the time to make an “absolute national commitment to end cancer as we know it today.” You galvanized the entire cancer research and patient care community to cooperate and collaborate in innovative ways to aggressively accelerate advances in cancer research for the benefit of patient care.

Your dedication to achieving your vision of making a marked reduction of cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality has enabled some extraordinary results, most notably, the Cancer Moonshot Blue Ribbon Panel Report and the Cancer Moonshot Task Force Report, as well as your very own Executive Report. These reports, coupled with your efforts to obtain seven years of robust funding for the Cancer Moonshot Initiative through the 21st Century Cures Bill, place your stated goal “to achieve a decade’s worth of progress in five years” well within reach.

You know firsthand the devastating effects of cancer on a family because of the untimely loss of your beloved son, Beau, and we know that you have been laser-focused on this cause ever since. We also know that we must work faster and better, especially since all Americans are touched either directly or indirectly by cancer.

The world owes you and your staff a tremendous amount of gratitude for establishing an environment throughout 2016 that encouraged the cancer research community to provide thought leadership, including the opportunity to provide their recommendations for new approaches to spur major advances against the more than 200 diseases we call cancer. These collective efforts will make a major difference for cancer patients and their loved ones.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on the important goal of changing the face of cancer.

With admiration and respect,



Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc)
Chief Executive Officer