

October 5, 2007

Dear Chairman Byrd and Ranking Member Cochran:

As organizations committed to reducing and preventing suffering and death from gynecologic cancers, we are writing to respectfully request that you provide \$9 million in the final FY 2008 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education (LHHS) Appropriations measure to support the implementation of Johanna's Law: The Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act. This law, enacted earlier this year, authorizes up to \$16.5 million for a federal awareness and education campaign regarding the signs and symptoms of gynecologic cancers – a critical initiative that will help save women's lives through early detection.

We are pleased that the House version of the LHHS measure contains \$9 million for this important effort and that 31 Senators and 45 Members of the House of Representatives have written in support of this allocation. A recent study found that 90 percent of women with early stage ovarian cancer had symptoms before being diagnosed. Many cancers have early warning signs, but women and providers are not always attuned to the risk of gynecologic cancers. With \$9 million in FY 2008 funding, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will have the resources necessary to launch a much-needed national awareness and education campaign to provide vital information to women and health care providers.

We recognize and appreciate that the nation and Congress face myriad fiscal challenges, and as such, very much appreciate your attention to – and support for – our request. Thank you in advance for ensuring that the final FY 2008 LHHS measure contains \$9 million for implementation of Johanna's Law.

Sincerely,

American Nurses Association
Cancer Schmancer
CONVERSATIONS! The International Ovarian Cancer Connection
EyesonthePrize.org Gynecologic Cancer Support
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
Gilda's Club Worldwide
The Gynecologic Cancer Foundation
Johanna's Law Alliance for Women's Cancer Awareness
National Cervical Cancer Coalition
National Ovarian Cancer Coalition
Oncology Nursing Society
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance
SHARE: Self Help for Women with Breast and Ovarian Cancer
Society of Gynecologic Nurse Oncologists
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists