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February 11, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Henry Waxman
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dave Obey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Max Baucus
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charlie Rangel
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dave Camp
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Reid, Inouye, Baucus, Cochran, and Grassley; and Representatives Waxman, Obey, Rangel, Lewis and Camp,

On behalf of more than 26,000 members of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), I urge you to maintain the Senate passed \$10 billion for the National Institute of Health in H.R. 1, "The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009." ASCO is the world's leading professional organization representing physicians who treat people with cancer.

The additional funding, added to H.R. 1 by an amendment from Senators Arlen Specter, Tom Harkin, and Richard Durbin, will not only benefit the National Institute of Health, it will stimulate all local economies receiving funding from NIH. According to the June 2008 Families USA report *In Your Own Backyard: How NIH Funding Helps Your State's Economy*, for every dollar NIH awards, there is a result of \$2.21 of new business activity. A \$10 billion investment in NIH could generate upwards of \$22.1 billion in new business activity all across America.

Significant progress is being made against cancer. New treatments are improving patient survival and reducing cancer recurrence, even for some of

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Making a world of difference in cancer care

the most difficult-to-treat cancers. We know more about cancer risk factors, about ways to target treatment to specific kinds of tumors, and about ways to improve both the length and quality of life for cancer patients. We are on the cusp of even greater progress against cancer and its causes, but this progress depends on the nation's full support of research that will answer critical questions.

This stimulus will give NIH the power to speed existing studies, launch new biomedical research projects, and support innovative strategies for emerging science. The pent up demand from years of flat NIH funding is waiting for an infusion that can launch the next period of progress. Unlocking this energy is possible with your support.

We recognize the tremendous challenges facing our nation and stand ready to assist in whatever way is needed as we work toward a stronger health care system for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen S. Lichter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Allen" being the most prominent.

Allen S. Lichter, MD
Chief Executive Officer

CC: The Honorable Arlen Specter
The Honorable Tom Harkin
The Honorable Richard Durbin