

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, MARYLAND  
HERB KOHL, WISCONSIN  
PATTY MURRAY, WASHINGTON  
BYRON L. DORGAN, NORTH DAKOTA  
DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA  
RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS  
TIM JOHNSON, SOUTH DAKOTA  
MARY L. LANDRIEU, LOUISIANA  
JACK REED, RHODE ISLAND  
FRANK R. LAUTENBERG, NEW JERSEY  
BEN NELSON, NEBRASKA

ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA  
PETE V. DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO  
CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, MISSOURI  
MITCH MCCONNELL, KENTUCKY  
RICHARD C. SHELBY, ALABAMA  
JUDG GREGG, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
ROBERT F. BENNETT, UTAH  
LARRY CRAIG, IDAHO  
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, TEXAS  
SAM BROWNBACK, KANSAS  
WAYNE ALLARD, COLORADO  
LAMAR ALEXANDER, TENNESSEE

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025  
<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

TERRENCE E. SALVAIN, STAFF DIRECTOR  
BRUCE EVANS, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

June 6, 2008

### Executive Leadership Committee Stand Up To Cancer

Dear Members of the Executive Leadership Committee:

I want to congratulate you on your September 5, 2008 "Stand Up To Cancer" television special and your innovative idea of raising funds from private sources for cutting-edge cancer research.

Senator Tom Harkin and I have been, in a way, conducting our own fund raising campaign – doubling the appropriation for the National Institutes of Health from \$13 billion in 1998 to \$26 billion in 2003. Unfortunately, since that time, our efforts have fallen short. Funding for medical research has become stagnant, not even keeping pace with inflation. Research grants have been trimmed back or eliminated altogether. Ideas for testing bold new approaches to treating disease have been shunted to the back burner. Worse yet, promising young investigators—the future scientific leaders—have been discouraged from entering this field of study.

I am asking that during your private fund-raising efforts, you call on your viewers to raise their voices and demand that funding for the National Institutes of Health be doubled once again to \$60 billion.

Particular attention should be given to Members of Congress who have not been supportive, such as those who voted against stem cell legislation and increases for biomedical research funding in appropriations bills.

Once again, I commend you for your efforts on behalf of myself and the millions of Americans who are searching for new treatments in their fight against disease and disability. Together we can be an unstoppable political force for increasing our investment in biomedical research. I thank you for joining me in this fight.

My Best,

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services and Education

AS/blt