

# DEBBIE'S DREAM FOUNDATION: CURING STOMACH CANCER CONGRESSIONAL MEETING "CHEAT SHEET"

## INTRODUCE YOURSELF

- Say where you live.
- Explain why you are participating in virtual advocacy day. Share your story.
- Say thank you if the lawmaker has been helpful in the past.
- Share your story.

## PEER REVIEWED CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM

- Maintain stomach cancer in the PRCRP in FY 2022 and increase program funding.
- Stomach cancer is service connected, including because service members who are deployed are at risk of *H. pylori*, the leading risk factor of stomach cancer.
- There are few effective treatments for stomach cancer and diagnosis often occurs at a late stage.
- Sign letter to Appropriations Defense Subcommittee asking that stomach cancer remain in the PRCRP. The letter is being led by Reps. Frankel and Kinzinger in the House, and Sen. Hirono in the Senate.
- Stomach cancer has been in the PRCRP for 7 years.
- To date, the PRCRP has supported \$22.3 million in stomach cancer research.

## NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

- Increase FY 2022 funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
  - NIH = \$46.11 billion (\$3.18 billion increase)
  - NCI = \$7.61 billion
- Thank you for past NIH and NCI funding increases.
- NCI received approval for a gastric research program from the National Cancer Advisory Board and Board of Scientific Advisors. This is a critically important development that is responsive to past congressional requests and is why we need Congress to keep up the momentum on funding for the NCI — because stomach cancer research depends on it.
- Demand for NCI grants continues to outpace funding and deters researchers, particularly in cancers where the science is immature. Increasing NCI's budget ensures promising cancer research gets funded.

## OTHER POINTS

- Without availability and certainty of federal funding, scientists will not pursue stomach cancer research.
- Incidence of certain types of stomach cancer appear to be increasing, including in younger adults, even though overall stomach cancer rates are declining.
- 80% percent of patients are asymptomatic during the early stages. Late diagnosis = low survival rates. Advance stage stomach cancer survival rate is 6%.
- More than 26,000 Americans will be diagnosed with stomach cancer this year; 11,000 will die.

# **REVISED** Our Message to Congress for FY 22

- 1. Keep stomach cancer in the DoD's Peer-Reviewed Cancer Research Program by:**
  - HOUSE: Signing the Frankel/Kinzinger letter
  - SENATE: Signing the Hirono letter

Department  
Of  
Defense

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- 2. Provide \$46.11 billion for the NIH**

National Institutes  
of Health/  
National Cancer  
Institute

- 3. Provide \$7.61 billion for the NCI**