



January 5, 2021

The Honorable Joe Biden  
President-Elect  
United States of America  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear President-Elect Biden:

The undersigned organizations, comprised of diverse stakeholders within the prostate cancer community, congratulate you on your election to the position of President of the United States. Together, this strong network of organizations, which includes patients, caregivers, researchers, physicians, and allied health professionals, collaborates to advance research on and improve access to treatment for patients with prostate cancer. We write to you today to highlight the inequity of access to screening and treatment for prostate cancer among underserved and minority groups, which deserves the immediate attention of your incoming administration.

Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in American men and the number one most common cancer among veterans – more than 10% of men are diagnosed with prostate cancer during their lifetime.<sup>1</sup> While the five-year rate of survival is 98% for men diagnosed with prostate cancer, prostate cancer disproportionately impacts men of color. In fact, non-Hispanic Black men are almost twice as likely to die from prostate cancer than non-Hispanic white men.<sup>2</sup> We hope to partner with you and your administration to address these unacceptable health disparities and reduce the overall burden of prostate cancer by investing in the research necessary to advance the understanding and treatment of this all too prevalent disease.

Since 1997, the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs Prostate Cancer Research Program has awarded more than \$1.6 billion in funding to researchers and innovators dedicated to understanding prostate cancer and identifying new treatments to enhance the lives of men with prostate cancer. In addition, the National Cancer Institute awarded nearly \$1.2 billion in research

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<sup>1</sup> Skolarus, T., & Hawley, S. (2014, August). Prostate cancer survivorship care in the Veterans Health Administration. Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6201257/>

<sup>2</sup> American Cancer Society, Cancer Facts & Figures for African Americans: 2019-2021, available at: <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/cancer-facts-and-figures-for-african-americans/cancer-facts-and-figures-for-african-americans-2019-2021.pdf>.



funding to study prostate cancer between fiscal year 2014-2018. While this and other research funding has been a categorical success, as prostate cancer mortality has dropped by more than half between 1993-2017, more work must be done to further lower mortality rates and address concerning increases in late-stage prostate cancer disease.<sup>3</sup>

Thank you for your years of service, both nationally and to the cancer care community. We look forward to collaborating with you and your administration to unleash new breakthroughs, increase access to treatment, and support patients through the existing Cancer Moonshot Initiative, as well as any new cancer-related initiatives your administration will support. Your commitment to addressing the burden cancer places on Americans and to improving health equity are critical now more than ever. The country continues to struggle to beat COVID-19, and the effects it will have on Americans' health as they delay or forego cancer treatments and screening is likely to be detrimental. We welcome the opportunity to work with you to direct funding towards prostate cancer research that will address unequal outcomes for African American men and further improve treatment and outcomes for all prostate cancer patients.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Raymond Wezik, Director of Policy and Advocacy for the American Urological Association, at [rwezik@auanet.org](mailto:rwezik@auanet.org)

Sincerely,  
American Urological Association  
Answer Cancer Foundation d/b/AnCan  
Cancer ABCs  
Cancer and Careers  
Chris "CJ" Johnson Foundation Inc.  
Patient Empowerment Network  
Prostate Cancer Foundation  
Prostate Cancer International  
Prostate Health Education Network  
RetireSafe  
Sexual Medicine Society of North America  
Society of Urologic Oncology  
Triage Cancer  
ZERO - The End of Prostate Cancer

CC: Ben Wakana

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<sup>3</sup> National Cancer Institute. Annual Report to the Nation: Overall Cancer Mortality Continues to Decline, Prostate Cancer Mortality has Stabilized, available at: <https://www.cancer.gov/news-events/press-releases/2018/annual-report-nation-2018>.