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**AACR/AACI/ASCO Honor U.S. Reps. McKinley, Carson as Part of Capitol Hill Day for Their Advocacy for Cancer Research Funding**

WASHINGTON — The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), the Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI), and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) honored U.S. Representatives David McKinley (R-West Virginia) and André Carson (D-Indiana) for their outstanding leadership on behalf of cancer research at a reception yesterday, recognizing their national commitment in the fight against cancer.

Reps. McKinley and Carson have been outspoken supporters of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the U.S. House of Representatives. Together, they co-lead a bipartisan “Dear Colleague” letter to appropriators in support of robust, sustained, and predictable funding for the NIH each spring. Support from both Democrats and Republicans for this letter grows each year, reaching a record number of 207 signatures in 2017.

Since first taking office in 2011, McKinley has been a staunch supporter of medical research and has worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the importance of a strong federal investment in science. He is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, where he has focused on health-related issues, and he been a supporter of the West Virginia University Cancer Institute.

Carson has represented the 7th District of Indiana since 2009. Also a strong proponent of medical research during his tenure in Congress, he has been a supporter of Indiana University Melvin & Bren Simon Cancer Center and Purdue University Center for Cancer Research.

Today, cancer researchers, physicians, survivors, patient advocates, and cancer center directors associated with the AACR, AACI, and ASCO will thank members of Congress for supporting a \$2 billion increase for the NIH in the fiscal year 2017 omnibus appropriations bills, as well as thanking them for supporting the Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot Initiative. Hill Day participants will share their perspectives, underscoring how cancer research saves lives, and urge members of Congress to forge ahead in securing this funding before the Continuing Resolution expires this Friday.

In addition, advocates will call on Congress to continue the momentum and provide robust, sustained, and predictable funding increases for the NIH and National Cancer Institute (NCI) in fiscal year 2018.

For the past 10 years, each May, which is National Cancer Research Month, the AACI, AACR, and ASCO have converged on Capitol Hill to share how cancer research is saving lives and transforming patient care. These groups are the three largest organizations in the field, representing more than 60,000 cancer researchers and community oncologists, and 95 cancer centers across the

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*The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) comprises 97 premier academic and freestanding cancer research centers in the U.S. and Canada. AACI is dedicated to reducing the burden of cancer by enhancing the impact of the leading academic cancer centers.*