



Association of American Cancer Institutes U.S. Representative Donald Payne, Jr.

The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) Board of Directors, staff, and cancer center leaders are saddened by the unexpected passing of U.S. Representative **Donald Payne, Jr. (D-NJ)**, a 2022 recipient of AACI's Cancer Research Ally Award.

Rep. Payne was a tireless advocate for increased access to cancer screenings, especially for underserved communities. The issue was personal to Rep. Payne, whose father, the late Rep. Donald Payne, Sr., passed away from colorectal cancer in 2012. Rep. Payne was the lead sponsor of the AACI-endorsed Removing Barriers to Colorectal Screening Act, which was enacted in late 2020; he also co-sponsored several other AACI-endorsed bills and co-signed the annual NIH and NCI congressional "Dear Colleague" letters calling for strong support for both agencies.

"Rep. Payne was an energetic and effective congressional champion for cancer research," said AACI Executive Director **Jennifer W. Pegher**. "We deeply appreciated his dedication to eradicating cancer and his health care advocacy will be sorely missed by AACI members as well as his constituents."