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**AACI Signals Strong Support for Knock Out Cancer Act, Increased Funding for NCI**

**Jennifer W. Pegher**, executive director of the [Association of American Cancer Institutes](#) (AACI), today called on federal legislators to significantly expand support for cancer research and patient care by passing the [Knock Out Cancer Act \(H.R. 3873\)](#).

Delivering remarks outside the U.S. Capitol, Pegher joined the bill's sponsors, Representatives **Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)** and **Debbie Dingell (D-MI)**, co-chairs of the bipartisan House Cancer Caucus.

The legislation represents one of the most significant proposed increases in cancer research funding in a generation, promising decisive action against the national crisis of cancer drug shortages.

It calls for a 25 percent increase in funding for the National Cancer Institute (NCI) each year for five years—based on Fiscal Year 2022 funding levels—to ensure investment reflects cancer's devastating toll as the [second leading cause of death in the United States](#). The bill also directs the Department of Health and Human Services to submit a comprehensive report to Congress within one year, identifying the root causes of ongoing cancer drug shortages and outlining actionable solutions to restore timely access to lifesaving treatment.

Pegher thanked Reps. Fitzpatrick and Dingell for their bold leadership in crafting a bipartisan bill that echoes NCI's landmark [Cancer Moonshot<sup>SM</sup>](#) by homing in on the unique nature of the NCI and the vital need for robust federal funding for cancer research.

The return on federal investment in cancer research is significant. According to the [American Cancer Society](#) (ACS), the cancer mortality rate declined by 34 percent from 1991 to 2023 in the U.S., with approximately 4.8 million fewer cancer deaths over that period. ACS largely attributes this progress to reductions in smoking and advances in treatment and early detection that are driven by scientific discovery.

“As the most comprehensive bipartisan bill of its kind since the Cancer Moonshot, the Knock Out Cancer Act dares us to dream big,” said Pegher. “AACI is grateful to Representatives Fitzpatrick and Dingell for their continued support of cancer research.”

AACI has endorsed the Knock Out Cancer Act since it was introduced to Congress in 2021 as H.R.6342. To monitor the progress of the bill, please visit [AACI’s legislation tracker](#).

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*The [Association of American Cancer Institutes](#) (AACI) represents over 100 premier academic and freestanding cancer centers in the United States and Canada. AACI is accelerating progress against cancer by enhancing the impact of academic cancer centers and promoting cancer health equity.*