

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 10, 2016

Douglas R. Lowy, M.D.
Acting Director
National Cancer Institute
Building 31, Room 11A48
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Lowy,

Thank you for your leadership of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and your commitment to advancing cancer research. We write today to request an overview of the current programs and activities at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) focused on advancing our scientific understanding of metastatic stage IV cancer, particularly those that may help lead to finding better solutions for patients that have metastatic disease.

We have heard from our constituents that treatment options for widely metastatic cancers such as stage IV breast cancer are limited, and that the disease is often fatal. It is our understanding that while there is substantial research into the metastatic process and the prevention of metastasis, individuals and families facing metastatic stage IV breast cancer struggle with available treatment options.

Each year, approximately 600,000 Americans die from cancer, and 90% of those individuals die from a cancer that has metastasized. NIH research holds tremendous promise and has systematically advanced knowledge and effectively improved health outcomes for individuals facing many diseases, including cancers. In this regard, we hope you will provide us with additional information on recent advancements and emerging opportunities in metastatic stage IV cancer research.

In your response, please provide guidance on the following questions:

- Please describe the current size and scope of NCI's metastatic cancer research portfolio.
- Will emerging efforts such as precision medicine and the "Moonshot" initiative help advance cancer research in this area?
- Please explain how the NCI Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) cancer registry works and what data can be tracked regarding progression of early stage breast cancer to metastatic disease.
- What directions and research questions do you anticipate this portfolio will be working to answer over the coming years, including any planned funding opportunities for already disseminated metastatic cancer research?

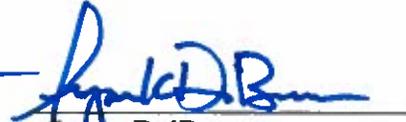
Sincerely,

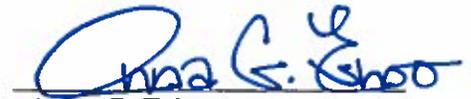

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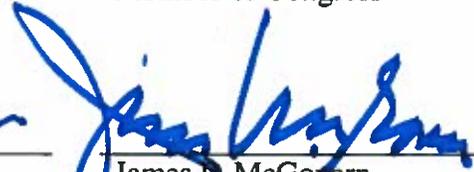

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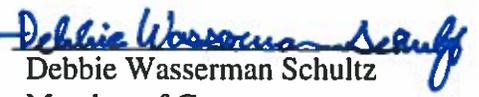

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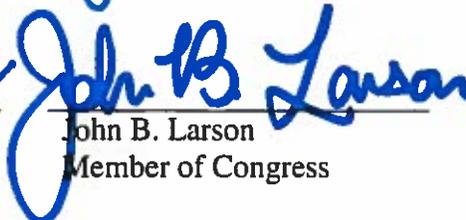

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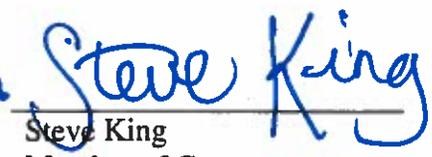

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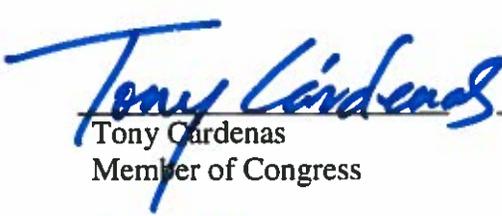

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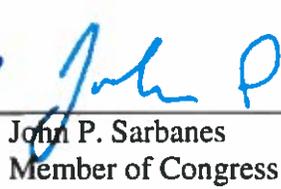

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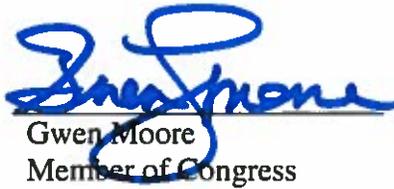

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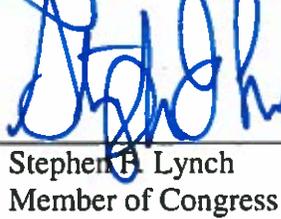

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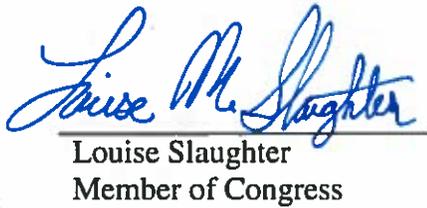

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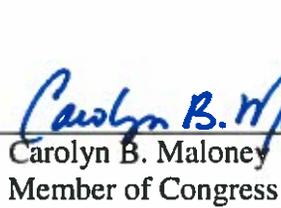

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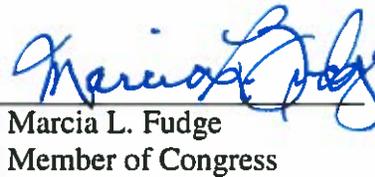

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