



PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK®
ADVANCE RESEARCH. SUPPORT PATIENTS. CREATE HOPE.

March 9, 2011

The Honorable Pete Petersen
State Capitol, Room 422
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Petersen:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network to thank you for your leadership in raising awareness about pancreatic cancer by introducing HCR 1, which recognizes November 2011 as “Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month”. As the national patient advocacy organization that works with volunteers across the country to find answers for this devastating disease, we greatly appreciate your support for this bill.

Approximately 43,140 Americans will hear that they have pancreatic cancer this year and 75% of those will die within the first year of their diagnosis. Only 6% will make it to the 5-year survival mark. In fact, pancreatic cancer is the only major cancer with a five-year survival rate still in the single digits and remains the 4th leading cause of cancer death in the United States, but currently receives only 2% of the federal government’s cancer research budget at the National Cancer Institute. Through awareness efforts like your resolution and the *Pancreatic Cancer Research & Education Act* (S. 362/H.R. 733), legislation which has been introduced in the U.S. Congress to require the National Cancer Institute to develop a long-term and comprehensive strategic plan for this disease, we hope to find early detection tools and treatments that will begin to lower these statistics.

Your work on the HCR 1 signifies an important step towards helping us raise awareness about this deadly disease. We thank you again for your continuing support of increasing awareness about pancreatic cancer.

Sincerely,

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