

The government shutdown has ended, but for the millions of women and families living with and beyond cancer, the crisis never stopped. While we breathe a sigh of relief that our government is reopening, we are watching with fierce urgency. We have seen what happens when progress stalls and doors to care are closed. We cannot afford to go backward.

As Congress moves forward with a new deadline, we urge that you complete the appropriations process with the lives of patients at the forefront. Our community—mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends—needs more than promises; we need action that protects our right to live healthy, whole lives.

We call on Congress to act swiftly and with conviction to:

1. Fully Fund Lifesaving Research and Prevention: Pass a Labor-HHS bill that provides a significant increase for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We have fought too hard for a seat at the table in scientific research and clinical trials. Cuts to the NIH mean fewer breakthroughs and more lives lost. Underfunding the CDC leaves us vulnerable, dismantling the very systems that protect our communities from health threats and ensure we receive the right care at the right time.

2. Protect and Expand Access to Affordable Care: It is unacceptable that in this nation, patients are still facing financial toxicity from a cancer diagnosis. We call for Congress to reauthorize the enhanced ACA tax benefits and

take immediate action to reverse the devastating rollbacks to Medicaid. For cancer patients and survivors, consistent, affordable healthcare is not a political issue—it is a matter of life and death. We need guaranteed access to the treatments, medications, and follow-up care we need to survive and thrive.

3. Champion Innovation Without Delay: We urge the bipartisan passage of pending health legislation that accelerates patient access to safe, effective, and innovative technologies, like multi-cancer early detection tests and breast cancer diagnostic screenings. Every day of unnecessary delay is a day that another woman might receive a late-stage diagnosis that could have been prevented. Our lives are worth more than political gridlock.

We stand at a crossroads. We can either set the pace for medical progress or block our own path with short-sighted cuts and delays. The women we love and fight for deserve a government that matches their courage and resilience.

It is time to shift into high gear. Our lives depend on it.

About Tigerlily Foundation:

Tigerlily Foundation is a national cancer organization providing education, advocacy, empowerment, and hands-on support to young women before, during, and after cancer. Our mission is to end the disparities in outcomes for young women of color and to support all women affected by cancer.