



Research ■ Policy ■ Awareness

April 7, 2006

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
United States House of Representatives
2262 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0703

delivered by fax to 202-225-4890

Dear Congresswoman DeLauro,

On behalf of the colorectal cancer community--the 150,000+ Americans who will be diagnosed this year, and the 55,000+ who will die from colorectal cancer--we want to thank you for your leadership.

In yesterday's hearing of the Labor, Health and Human Services Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, you pointed out the critical need for organ site-specific translational research. Furthermore, your questions of Dr. Niederhuber, and his responses, help ensure that organ site-specific translational research such as that conducted in the Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORE) programs will stay high on the National Cancer Institute priority list. As you pointed out, the SPOREs have created unique and productive examples of "team science," and require appropriate funding in order to maximize their productivity. Thank you for raising these critical issues.

In addition, thank you for introducing a budget amendment in late March to restore health and education funding to 2004 levels. While the amendment did not pass, we believe that many of your colleagues will come to understand that this funding must be restored and ultimately increased. We applaud you for taking the first step to getting us closer to that goal.

Again, we appreciate your leadership and your willingness to speak out on behalf of all people touched by cancer. We would be honored to work with you on future efforts to benefit our community.

Thank you,

Nancy Roach
President and Chair, Board of Directors