

TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH COALITION

**Senate Finance Committee
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
Testimony by Rick Ngo, MD on behalf of the Texas Public Health Coalition,
American Cancer Society and the Texas Medical Association
Feb. 5, 2013**

Texas took a big step forward to fight cancer when in 2007 Texans approved the state proposition that authorized the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute. Cancer research and prevention is important. Unfortunately, more than 100,000 families this year will learn that a member of their family has been diagnosed with a cancer. Almost 40,000 families will lose a family member in their fight with cancer.

In 2009, with CPRIT, Texas became a national leader in cancer research and prevention – second only to the National Cancer Institute in funding cancer research.

CPRIT has effectively brought together local and statewide organizations, such as Texas Public Health Coalition (TPHC) to assure stakeholders with broad expertise and interests are working with CPRIT. TMA is a member of the Texas Public Health Coalition, along with more than 20 other state health associations such as the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, and Livestrong. The coalition represents thousands of professionals and community organizations that know the long-term key to reducing cancer in Texas is CPRIT's programs for cancer prevention.

The Public Health Coalition strongly endorses CPRIT's commitment to cancer prevention. CPRIT's prevention programming is reaching Texas large, diverse, and uninsured population, which is still in great need of evidence-based cancer screening and early detection programs.

Locally, CPRIT prevention programming is funding organizations across the state to support local cancer activities to address the unique cancer concerns in individual communities as well as educating community health care providers.

While the recent state audit report identified important areas of concern in how CPRIT conducted its business, we recognize the new CPRIT leadership will take these issues seriously and continue to implement new procedures. The Texas PHC supports continued funding for cancer prevention and research. We also strongly encourage state leadership to ensure a transparent funding process is in place and supported by an independent and robust scientific review of the merit of each grant application.

With the cost of cancer in Texas more than \$28 billion in health care costs for cancer, we must continue CPRIT's mission in research and prevention.

Thanks for your time and consideration.