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STEVEN ENGLEBRIGHT
4th Assembly District
Suffolk County

February 22, 2021

Carl E. Heastie, Speaker
NYS Assembly
Room 932 LOB
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Heastie:

We write to express our continued support for the Stony Brook Medicine Cancer Center to be designated as a National Cancer Institute (NCI) and we respectfully request that this year's budget include \$2 million to complete the final phases of the NCI application requirements set forth by the National Institute of Health (NIH). With your support, Stony Brook Medicine Cancer Center has previously received money to continue this application process.

The United States has come far in the 80 years since Congress made the NCI the primary federal agency dedicated to addressing research and training needs for the cause, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. While 69 NCI designated Cancer Centers now exist throughout the country, the closest NCI clinic to Long Island residents is based in New York City. This is a burden for the approximately 17,500 people on Long Island who are diagnosed with cancer each year.

With a population greater than 21 other states, Long Island needs convenient access to top-level research and clinical care rather than having its most vulnerable cancer patients travel prohibitive distances for treatment. Receiving an NCI Cancer Center designation will enhance accessibility for Long Island residents, support economic activity in the region through nearly \$50 million in available federal research funds, and reduce the caseload of New York City Cancer Centers ensuring better treatment for even more of New York State.

Stony Brook University has critical facilities dedicated to cancer focused research including:

- **The Medical and Research Translation Building:** 240,000 square feet facility devoted to experimental imaging, biomedical informatics, and both basic cancer research and the highest quality clinical care.
- **Institute for Discovery and Innovation in Medicine and Engineering (I-DIME):** The \$75 million, 70,000 square-foot facility will be a center where cutting edge academic

research and data analytic support comes together with private sector ingenuity to solve some of the most challenging problems of today and tomorrow. The Schools of Medicine and Engineering will staff the I-DIME building, based on the concept of engineer-driven medicine, which at Stony Brook will focus heavily on cancer medicine.

- **Brookhaven National laboratory (BNL):** as co-manager of BNL, Stony Brook University has 110 joint appointments with the Lab allowing researchers and others to access the most advanced scientific technologies including the National Synchrotron Light Source II – a \$960 million x-ray facility with the nanoscale resolution needed to foster new discoveries and breakthroughs in critical areas including cancer research.
- **Over 100 faculty members of the Stony Brook Cancer Center:** a major recruitment effort at Stony Brook Medicine over the past six years has yielded a large number of new faculty members devoted to cancer care and biology improving the efforts of many existing departments.
- **Nearly \$25M in external funding for cancer research:** obtained almost entirely from the NCI, other NIH institutes, and the National Science Foundation. These grants support cutting edge research designed to find a cure for various cancers that affect Long Islanders, New Yorkers, and the entire population.

Based on all these assets, Stony Brook Medicine began the drive to become an NCI-designated Cancer Center several years ago. This includes assembling an external advisory board (EAB) of clinical and research cancer experts, featuring the Director of the NCI-designated Roswell Park Cancer Center in Buffalo, NY. A recent EAB review of Stony Brook's readiness for designation notes that Stony Brook, out of the other institutions seeking such designation, "has one of the strongest research bases and can demonstrably illustrate that it is making enormous contributions to the oncology field." That same report states that there is a clear expectation of State support for public institutions seeking NCI designated cancer centers.

With NCI designation, Stony Brook Medicine will allow all Long Island residents much needed accessibility to the highest levels of cancer care and research excellence.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Englebright". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Steve Englebright
Member of Assembly