

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 8, 2018

Dr. Norman E. Sharpless  
Director  
National Cancer Institute  
BG 9609 MSC 9760  
9609 Medical Center Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20892-9760

RE: Invitation to Visit Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida

Dear Dr. Sharpless:

As members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, we would like to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Thanks to the tremendous work done by the staff at NCI and their partners throughout the United States, it has been the leading force behind the federal government's efforts to find cures to all forms of cancer. This work is especially important in Florida, which is burdened with the nation's second highest yearly totals for cancer incidence and mortality.

Leading the way in cancer treatment, prevention and research for our neighbors in Florida and across the country is Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, the only NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center based in Florida.

Since its establishment by the State of Florida in 1986, Moffitt Cancer Center has had one mission: to contribute to the prevention and cure of cancer. We have seen firsthand the impressive array of research Moffitt researchers have done to devise new and more effective ways to prevent and treat cancer. Treatment outcomes – such as length of survival and quality of life – are measurably better for patients at Moffitt than almost all other providers, for all types and stages of cancer. We are extremely proud of the significant impacts that Moffitt has made in the research and treatment of cancer that impacts so many of our neighbors and we wanted to share with you some of their notable accomplishments and special capabilities.

Moffitt Cancer Center has become known as a worldwide leader in the development and delivery of new therapies that use the patients' own immune cells to fight cancer. A Moffitt patient recently became the first to be treated with Yescarta, the newly Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved adoptive cell therapy for diffuse large B cell lymphoma, a treatment for which Moffitt played an instrumental role in clinical testing. Over the past five years, Moffitt has enrolled more than 3,400 patients on immunotherapy trials, many of which are testing adoptive cell therapy approaches on solid tumors.

Moffitt Cancer Center also bears the distinction of having its own Integrated Mathematical Oncology Department, a group of mathematicians who work with clinicians and bench scientists to develop mathematical models to better understand cancer initiation, progression and treatment. This work has led to a multitude of research breakthroughs and several active clinical trials aimed at improving the health of our neighbors.

Moffitt Cancer Center is doing great work to care for patients and their families in our communities and throughout the United States. We would encourage you to schedule a visit to Moffitt in the near future to see firsthand the lifesaving efforts being made there to improve survival rates and quality of life for people with cancer.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



Bill Nelson  
U.S. Senate



Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senate




Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



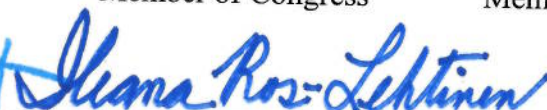
Dennis A. Ross  
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress



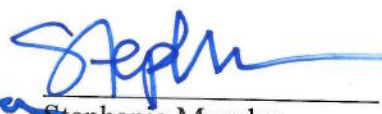
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress



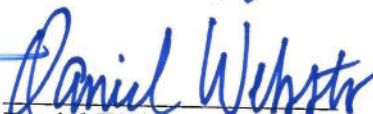
Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



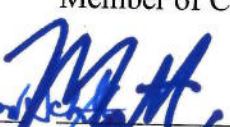
Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



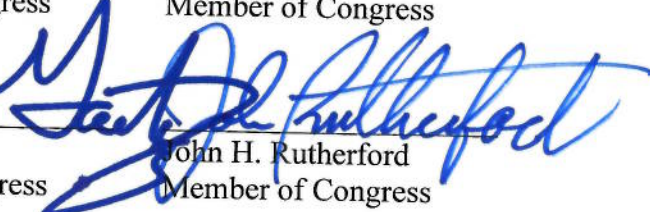
Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress