



Educational Resource Only:



The Texas Cancer Partnership is a coalition of organizations united in the fight against cancer and our ultimate mission is to bring an end to cancer as we know it. Our shared focus toward achieving that mission is to ensure the state of Texas maintains its status as a world leader in the fight against cancer by continuing its investment in cancer research and lifesaving prevention and early detection services through the Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT).

Recently, questions have been raised about whether the state of Texas' investment in cancer research and programs through CPRIT is sound policy. While we believe the private and nonprofit sectors play an important role in funding cancer research and programs, we also firmly believe that investments by state and federal government institutions are critically important to leverage in the fight against cancer.

The Texas Cancer Partnership is united in the belief that CPRIT is one of the most significant catalysts for progress against cancer anywhere in the world and the state of Texas has become a global leader in the effort to eliminate cancer.

## **CPRIT History and Accomplishments**

In 2007, a grassroots coalition of Texas health organizations advocated for passage of the legislation and constitutional amendment to create CPRIT – a \$3 billion investment in cancer research and programs in the state of Texas. With the solid leadership of Governor Rick Perry, Senator Jane Nelson and Representative Jim Keffer, the agency’s mission received broad support in the Texas Legislature and among Texas voters in 2007, and that support continues today.

CPRIT has made a significant impact in the fight against cancer in Texas since its inception. Here are a few highlights<sup>i</sup>:

- CPRIT has funded 181 prevention grants across the state of Texas – reaching all 254 counties and delivering 3.3 million cancer prevention services to Texans, including 1.5 million education and training services and 1.8 million clinical services.
- CPRIT cancer research grants have supported more than 103 new clinical trials at cancer institutions across the state and 9,659 Texas cancer patients have received cancer treatment while enrolled in CPRIT-funded clinical trials to date.
- 123 leading cancer researchers and their labs have been lured to Texas institutions from top-rate national cancer centers, including Memorial Sloan-Kettering, Harvard University, Stanford University and Johns Hopkins University, through the CPRIT Scholars recruitment grant program. Thanks to CPRIT, Texas is now a leading destination for the nation’s best cancer researchers and the envy of other states.

## **Investing in CPRIT Makes Good Financial Sense**

In addition to the progress CPRIT continues to make in reducing cancer’s toll in Texas, the agency is having a significant economic impact across the state as well. According to an economic assessment issued by The Perryman Group<sup>ii</sup> last year, CPRIT investments generate sizeable economic benefits:

- CPRIT’s direct and indirect economic activities are responsible for \$8 billion in Texas business activity and 79,075 jobs annually.
- CPRIT is generating more tax revenue for the state than its annual appropriation. The Perryman Group found that CPRIT’s annual \$300 million in grant and program funding generates \$361.4 million in state tax receipts and \$166.9 million in local government tax receipts.
- Every \$1 that CPRIT invests in screening and prevention programs results in \$21.89 savings in treatment costs and preserved productivity, and saves \$1.86 in direct health spending.

## **Support for CPRIT Among Texas Voters is Strong**

According to a scientific poll<sup>iii</sup> of registered Texas voters conducted by Public Opinion Strategies and commissioned by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network in December 2016, statewide support for the work of CPRIT is strong and growing.

When poll respondents were asked whether they favor funding CPRIT beyond 2021 or ending the program to save tax dollars, 74 percent of voters said it was more important to continue the program. This demonstrates a 4-point increase in support since a similar poll was conducted in 2014.

In the same poll, 89 percent of Texas voters believe it is important for Texas to remain a national leader in cancer research and prevention by providing state funds for CPRIT.

## **Extending CPRIT's Sunset Review Date Is Sound Policy**

HB 84, HB 63 and SB 224 would extend CPRIT's sunset review date by two years to allow the agency to fulfill its constitutional mandate to invest all funds approved by Texas voters. Without this extension, it is estimated that CPRIT will have approximately \$150 million remaining that the agency will be unable to award to deserving cancer research, prevention and product development grantees.

Opposing the extension of the Sunset Review date would ignore the will of Texas voters and wind CPRIT down prematurely before all voter-approved funds have been awarded to deserving grantees. On behalf of cancer patients, survivors and their families across the state of Texas, we strongly encourage the legislature to fully fund CPRIT this session and extend the Sunset Review date by two years to ensure the state keeps its promise to Texas voters.

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For more information, contact: Cam Scott, Senior Director, Texas Government Relations  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) | Phone: 512-919-1804 | Email: cam.scott@cancer.org

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<sup>i</sup> Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, "February 2017 Achievements Report," available at [http://www.cprit.state.tx.us/publications/achievements\\_report\\_feb2017/index.html](http://www.cprit.state.tx.us/publications/achievements_report_feb2017/index.html)

<sup>ii</sup> The Perryman Group, "An Economic Assessment of the Cost of Cancer in Texas and the Benefits of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) and its Programs," November 2016, available at [http://www.cprit.state.tx.us/images/uploads/perryman\\_cprit\\_impact\\_2016.pdf](http://www.cprit.state.tx.us/images/uploads/perryman_cprit_impact_2016.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> Public Opinion Strategies, "Texas Cancer Poll," February 1, 2017, available at <https://www.acscan.org/sites/default/files/State%20Documents/2017%20Texas%20Cancer%20Poll%20-%20CPRIT%20slides%20%5BRead-Only%5D.pdf>