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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Men's Health Network Supports the One Voice Against Cancer Message to President Bush**

WASHINGTON, DC- The Men's Health Network in conjunction with 48 other cancer advocacy groups, have come together, as One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC). This group has joined forces to speak with "one voice" asking President Bush and Congress for increases in cancer research and education funding at the National Institute of Health (NIH), the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"We are proud to be a part of One Voice Against Cancer", says Tracie Snitker, Director of Public Affairs at the Men's Health Network. "In challenging Congress to provide the funding levels contingent upon each agencies' needs and abilities to further their research and education efforts, we hope to save lives and provide hope for those now living with this terrible disease. Medical research and the application of that research coupled with education and awareness programs are critical issues for men and their families."

This year OVAC urges Congress to stay on target with their previous commitment to doubling the budget at the NIH by the year 2003. Specifically, OVAC asks that focus be placed on the following priority areas for the cancer community by increasing funding to meet the urgent need:

- \$23.7 billion for the NIH. This is the amount necessary to keep the agency in line with the congressional commitment to double NIH funding by 2003;
- \$5.03 billion in funding for the NCI, the amount the NCI Director has deemed necessary for mounting a serious effort to win the war against cancer. This "bypass budget" amount represents the best chance for the 1.2 million Americans who will be newly diagnosed with cancer this year;
- Significant expansion of cancer education, outreach, prevention and screening efforts through the CDC, for programs such as, the Comprehensive Cancer Control Initiative, National Cancer Registries Program; Colorectal Cancer Screening, Education and Outreach; National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program; and the Prostate Cancer Awareness Campaign

MHN is a non-profit, educational organization, recognizing men's health as a specific social concern. Read more about MHN at: <http://www.menshealthnetwork.org/about.html>

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