

## Eshoo Introduces Legislation for Pancreatic Cancer Research

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Washington, D.C. - Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (D - Palo Alto) introduced a bill today that will establish a National Pancreatic Cancer Initiative to provide a greater focus on the disease and give the National Cancer Institute the tools it needs to discover ways to diagnose and treat pancreatic cancer in its early stages and perhaps one day prevent it.

"Pancreatic cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths in America and for too many it is a death sentence," said Eshoo. "It is essential to invest in research and early diagnosis of the disease. This bill may not immediately result in a cure for pancreatic cancer, but it has the potential to make great strides in the direction of prevention and early diagnosis of the disease."

More than 37,000 Americans will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this year and 75% of them will die within a year of the diagnosis. Pancreatic cancer remains one of the most lethal and overlooked types of cancer. As the overall mortality rate for other types of cancer in America has declined, the number of Americans dying from pancreatic cancer has increased.

The National Plan to Advance Pancreatic Cancer Research Act will provide renewed focus on research of the disease in addition to creating a National Pancreatic Cancer Initiative. The National Pancreatic Cancer Initiative will help to identify the research priorities, infrastructure needs, and workforce training requirements that are needed to make progress in pancreatic cancer research.

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