I/We want you to understand that Cancer Registrars are Key to Cancer Prevention, Treatment and Research

- Remind them that the collection of cancer data for the purpose of cancer surveillance is federally mandated and has been since 1971.

- Provide an overview of cancer registrars. Explain the flow of cancer data from local health care institutions to state and national registries. *Use your cancer registry as an example.*

- Cancer registrars and registries impact cancer prevention, treatment, and care, providing relevant local examples (*use your state fact sheet for ideas*).

- Point out that the coordination of local hospital registries and state central registries coupled with support from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) and National Cancer Institute’s SEER Program supports state health departments to collect high-quality data and together, collect cancer data for 100% of the US population.

- The national data links with state data providing for the prioritization of cancer control and screening efforts in our state and locally.

Existing central cancer registries are the best avenue for cancer surveillance

- Central cancer registries report detailed information on ALL cancers to NCI and CDC and these data can be used to address specialized research.

- “Specialized population” cancer registries duplicate the ongoing activities of existing central cancer registries.

I/we have concerns on funding for CDC, NIH, and National Cancer Institute

- Central cancer registries are funded through the CDC Division of Cancer Prevention & Control and through the NIH’s National Cancer Institute. These funds are vital to report on cancer surveillance nationally and locally.

- While the president’s proposed budget calls for large cuts specific to cancer registry funding, we need you to reject those cuts and support increased funding for cancer registry programs.

- We are already working on a tight budget - The number of reported cancer cases is increasing, while appropriations per patient have decreased by $10 per case, from $32 in 2003 to $22 in 2013.

Provide Leave Behind Materials at end of meeting

Thanks for meeting with me and for your support for cancer registries. We know these are tough times but I hope we can count on your boss to support increased funding—it will save lives.