



Dear Honorable Cynthia Long,

As your constituent, I am writing on behalf of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and the estimated 37,390 Americans who will die of pancreatic cancer in 2012, approximately 2,240 of whom live in Texas. In 2012, pancreatic cancer will afflict more than 43,920 Americans, 74% of whom will die within one year of their diagnosis, and 94% of whom will die within five years of diagnosis.

I have personally been affected by pancreatic cancer. I lost my step-mother in 1997 to this terrible disease. What makes me even more upset is that since that time, and for the past 40 years, there has been no improvement in the 5 year survival rate for those diagnosed today with pancreatic cancer.

To date, pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States, and it is the only major cancer with a five-year relative survival rate in the single digits at just six percent. Furthermore, the incidence and death rate for pancreatic cancer are increasing, and pancreatic cancer is anticipated to move from the fourth to the second leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. by 2020, and possibly as early 2015. We need your help to shine a spotlight on this disease and finally make progress in developing treatments and early detection tools. By issuing a proclamation supporting the observance of November 2012 as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in Williamson County you can help us to raise awareness in our community.

I have attached a draft of the proclamation text for your review. The proposed text not only recognizes November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, but also calls on the U.S. Senate to pass the *Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act*, formerly the *Pancreatic Cancer Research & Education Act*, this year. The U.S. House has already passed this critical legislation. We are asking for this additional language because it is essential that the bill pass this year. I am happy to provide additional official Pancreatic Cancer Action Network material, including pancreatic cancer facts and statistics and National Cancer Institute (NCI) funding information, upon request.

We request that a total of one original of the proclamation to be made available for our records. Please contact me at 512-966-0653 or [bheinrich@pancanvolunteer.org](mailto:bheinrich@pancanvolunteer.org) with any questions. I look forward to working with you to issue a proclamation that will recognize November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month and bring much needed attention to this deadly disease. Thank you for your interest in this important issue.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Heinrich  
Advocacy Coordinator  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, Greater Austin Affiliate