



19 December 2017

Representative Lamar Smith, Chairman  
House Committee on Science, Space and Technology  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Smith:

I am writing to express strong support for H. R. 4675, Low-Dose Radiation Research Act of 2017.

I am a radiation biologist deeply embedded in the radiation research community and a former researcher in the Department of Energy's Low Dose research program. This Bill, as presented to Congress, ensures the re-invigoration of the low dose radiation research program in the United States and recommends activities that are sorely needed to define health effects of low dose radiation exposures, to enhance the scientific environment (personnel and resources) for conducting low dose radiation research in the United States, and to enhance inter-agency collaborations for development of new low dose radiation research programs. All of these endeavors will enable the nation to make proper decisions about radiation procedures and protection that are needed when our citizens are exposed to low dose radiation regardless of its source.

The previous programs for Low Dose Radiation Research funded by DOE led to many significant findings. For example, some unique biological responses to low dose radiation were found that are not evident at high doses. This means that our current predictions about low dose exposures are probably inaccurate because a simple extrapolation from high dose effects to low doses effects would not be correct. Much of the past DOE funded work was in the discovery phase with cells in culture and never made its way to be tested in whole animals. This has limited our ability to apply this work to human beings, which is the end goal of most research.

Before the termination of the DOE Low Dose Radiation program, the US was the leader in radiation research science world-wide. This changed after the termination of the program with leadership moving to the European community, Japan, Korea and others. Nevertheless, during this time biomedical science and technology have moved forward dramatically. New approaches have been developed and new discoveries have been made. Incorporating sensitive new techniques in low dose radiation research with animals would open new understanding as would modeling with new computational approaches. Fine-tuned models could set the stage for fine-tuned decisions and evidence-based protection policies.



In summary, I express my own support for this bill, and I do so with the complete assurance of the overwhelmingly strong support of the entire radiation community. The American Society of Radiation Oncology has endorsed these efforts on their website and the Radiation Research Society (of which I am past President) has informed me of their support for this bill. Please feel free to contact me with any questions and suggestions for any additional assistance I could provide.

Sincerely-

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gayle E. Woloschak".

Gayle E. Woloschak, Ph. D., Professor  
Departments of Radiation Oncology, Radiology, and Cell and Molecular Biology  
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine  
Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center  
300 E. Superior St, Tarry 4-713  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-503-4322  
g-woloschak@northwestern.edu