

This stimulus package “will launch a new effort to conquer a disease that has touched the life of nearly every American, including me, by seeking a cure for cancer in our time.”

*— President Barack H. Obama
Address to joint session of Congress, February 24, 2009*

Apparently, Roswell Park Cancer Institute has decided to sit this one out.

In his February 24 address to a joint session of Congress, President Barack Obama singled out cancer research as a priority, promising to commit significant federal funding to finding a cure.

At Roswell Park in Buffalo research associates have worked toward that goal every day. Roswell was the nation's first cancer research hospital and has a reputation as a renowned research and treatment facility as a result of work by its scientists and research associates.

But now, the administration at Roswell wants to put cancer research on the back burner, turning its back on cancer patients hoping for a cure. Administrators are abandoning the core element of RPCI's mission — cancer research — by abolishing its research associates. The entire staff of research associates has been given layoff notices. That's 400 years of cancer research experience out the door!

The administration at RPCI couldn't be farther off track. A commitment to cancer treatment is vital, and any reduction in the commitment to cancer research is a move toward giving up on finding a cure.

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