

PRESIDENT'S CANCER PANEL

Due to the President's interest and concern with regard to the problems of cancer, the President's Cancer Panel was legislatively mandated in 1971. The Panel's mission is to oversee the NCI as the President's "watchdog". The Panel reports to the Presidents as to the progress, effectiveness and operation of NCI and makes recommendations to the President.

The National Cancer Act of 1971 (P.L. 92-281)

The Committee recognizes the fact that the President of the United States has many responsibilities and although the attack on cancer is a significant one, it would be impossible for him to follow its progress on a day-to-day basis. Therefore, direct oversight of the program will be accomplished through this panel of highly qualified individuals, who will meet at least twelve times a year, to evaluate the program and make suggestions for improvements, as well as to report directly to the President on any delays or blockages in rapid execution of the program.

In addition, the President's Cancer Attack Panel will continuously monitor and evaluate the program and bring to the President's immediate attention any hindrance to the success of the program as well as recommendations for improvement in the National Cancer Institute.

The Committee recommends that one of the two scientists on the Panel be representative of the basic research community, and that the other be representative of the clinical research community. Also, the Committee recommends that the lay member of the Panel be of a background indicating that he is skilled in the field of management. (H. Rpt. 92-659, pp. 19, 22, and 27)

The National Cancer Act Amendment of 1974 (P.L. 93-352)

The function of the Panel will be to monitor a National Cancer Attack program and to report directly to the President. It shall immediately bring to the President's attention any delay in program execution and report annually to the President with suggestions for improvement. At the President's request, it shall also submit a list of names of persons for consideration for appointment as Director of the National Cancer Institute. (H. Rpt. 92-722, p. 14)

The Biomedical Research Extension Act of 1977 (P.L. 95-83)

No statutory changes or report language affecting Panel.

The Community Mental Health Centers Act, Amendments of 1978 (P.L. 95-622)

Two statutory changes occurred. The number of times the Panel is required to meet changed from twelve to not less often than four times a year. Deleted was the sentence At the request of the President, it shall submit for his consideration a list of names of persons for consideration for appointment as Director of the National Cancer Institute.

The Health Programs Extension Act of 1980 (P.L. 97-538)

In view of complaints from the panel itself that the existing requirement for the panel to meet no fewer than 12 times per year was excessive, the committee amended the authority for the President's Cancer Panel to reduce this number to no fewer than four meeting per year. The Committee believes that this will permit the panel to carry out its duties in a more effective manner, allowing sufficient time for the careful study of issues between meetings.

(H. Rpt. 95-1192, p. 29)

The Health Research Extension Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-158)

Statutory change: The Panel shall submit to the President periodic progress reports on the National Cancer Program and shall submit to the President, the Secretary, and the Congress an annual evaluation of the efficacy of the Program and suggestion for improvements, and shall submit such other reports as the President shall direct.

The National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-43)

No statutory changes or report language affecting the Panel.

The National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-482)

No statutory changes or report language affecting the Panel.