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**Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center (“RPCCC” or “Roswell”)  
Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means Joint Legislative Hearing  
State Fiscal Year 2022-23 Executive Budget Health and Medicaid  
February 8, 2022**

**Background**

First founded in 1898, Roswell Park is a National Cancer Institute designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. It is the only such designated center in upstate NY and is one of only five comprehensive centers in the entire state. In 2020, US News and World Report ranked Roswell as the 14th best cancer hospital in the country. Roswell serves as a model for cancer research centers around the world. The collaborative work of its scientific research, investigations in the laboratory, and the work of its clinicians, researchers, and surgeons, together have transformed cancer care.

Roswell is a State Public Benefit Corporation (“PBC”) with a collectively bargained public workforce. As a PBC, RPCCC proudly pays a prevailing wage and honors a 30% MWBE commitment. It employs approximately 3,600 employees, nearly 90% of whom are unionized state employees represented by CSEA, PEF, or NYSCOPA. RPCCC participates in the NYS Pension and makes annual payments for post retiree health benefits and other post-employment benefits (“OPEB”). In FY 22-23, the payments on these legacy obligations will rise to \$59.2 million, with a \$20.3 million debt service payment on the state-owned, 29-acre campus (comprised of 18 buildings), \$26.9 million cash payment to the pension fund, and a \$12 million cash OPEB payment.

RPCCC serves an 8+-county area of Western New York (“WNY”), in addition to neighboring states and Canada. This region is characterized by poverty, obesity, tobacco use/smoking, which then corresponds to increased incidences of cancer and mortality rates in breast, prostate, colorectal, colon, bladder, kidney, and lung cancers.

**Executive Budget SFY 2022-2023**

Roswell applauds Governor Hochul’s Executive Budget which signals a strong commitment to the continued state support of Roswell and the work that it is involved. We respectfully ask that the Legislature embrace the Executive proposal to provide critical support Roswell Park in its mission to create a powerful force against cancer, and we ask that you include the new initiatives as outlined in the Executive budget:

Capital Appropriation	\$57.304 million
Operating Appropriation	\$55.463 million

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A National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center • A National Comprehensive Cancer Network Member  
A Blue Distinction Center for Complex and Rare Cancers™

## Lung Cancer Screening

The Executive proposal includes \$4.0 million to procure lung cancer screening mobile vans and associated technology to be deployed in racially diverse neighborhoods and communities for early detection of lung cancer.

Lung and bronchus cancer is the third most common type of cancer in the State and has the highest rate of cancer mortality. Within the RPCCC catchment area, there is generally a lung cancer rate of 72.6 per 100,000, and an even higher incidence among the Black community, at 84.6. Yet only 6% of all eligible New Yorkers are screened for lung and bronchus cancer. New York is ranked 29<sup>th</sup> in the country for lung cancer screening, far behind Kentucky that screens about 14% of its eligible population, and Massachusetts that screens 18%.

Top 10 Cancer Incidence, 2014-2018				
Cancer	WNY CATCHMENT AREA		NEW YORK STATE	UNITED STATES
	Rank	Rate per 100,000	Rate per 100,000	Rate per 100,000
Breast	1	143.1	133.9	126.8
Prostate	2	139.0 (207.3)	126.5	106.2
Lung and Bronchus	3	72.6 (84.6)	58	57.3
Colon and Rectum	4	39.3 (50.2)	38.1	38
Corpus and Uterus, NOS	5	33.6	31.8	27.4
Urinary Bladder	6	29.3	22.4	19.7
Melanoma of the Skin	7	29.1	18.1	22.6
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	8	22.5	21.6	19.1
Kidney and Renal Pelvis	9	18.4	16.9	17.1
Leukemia	10	17.0	16.3	14.2

Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 US Std Million (19 age groups) standard. \* indicates African-Americans

ROSSELL PARK COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

Data collected from 2015-2019 indicates that Roswell's efforts to increase screening compliance for lung cancer (as well as breast, prostate, colon, and cervical cancers) has resulted in a significant positive impact on five-year survival rates in WNY. The State's investment of \$4 million will enable Roswell to build on a cancer screening program that increases cancer survival rates, expand and enhance cancer screening operations among diverse and underrepresented groups, and result in a savings to the overall health care system.

## Conclusion

The Executive budget and state support will allow Roswell to build on its past successes and to maintain its unique presence in Western and Upstate NY. It will also enable Roswell to expand cancer screening programs that increase cancer survival rates, especially in impoverished and racially diverse communities. Early detection and screenings also have the added benefit of substantial fiscal savings overall to the health care system.

For these reasons, we strongly support Governor Hochul's proposed appropriations, and urge the legislature to do the same. RPCCC welcomes our partners in government to join us in WNY at any time to see, firsthand, the important work that these dollars support.