

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 1, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

Cancer is surpassing heart disease as the leading cause of death in America because we find most cancers too late. Since Medicare covers those at greatest risk for cancer – America’s seniors – the program should allow access to life-saving cancer screenings once approved by the FDA and evaluated by CMS. Therefore, we write to urge passage this year of the *Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection (MCED) Screening Coverage Act* (H.R. 1946) led by Representatives Sewell (AL), Arrington (TX), Ruiz (NC), and Hudson (NC).

Few issues command more comprehensive bipartisan and bicameral support than this policy.

Notably, as of today, support includes:

- 257 Representatives and 54 Senators
- 37 Ways and Means Committee Members
- 41 Energy and Commerce Committee Members
- 17 Senate Finance Committee Members
- 46 Congressional Black Caucus Members
- 20 Congressional Hispanic Caucus Members
- 14 Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Members
- 38 Problem Solvers Caucus Members
- 17 Congressional Doctors Caucus Members
- Inclusion in the House GOP Healthy Future Task Force Treatments policy platform
- Endorsement by the 99Member New Democrat Coalition

Because the burden of cancer extends across parties and political identity in America, Congress has consistently worked together over the last five decades and nine administrations to promote research, prevention, and early detection. More recently, President Joe Biden’s renewed commitment to “end cancer as we know it” is another reminder that there is no partisan angle on cancer.

Led by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Prevent Cancer Foundation, Cancer Support Community, National Minority Quality Forum, Association of Community

Cancer Centers, Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance, and Fight Colorectal Cancer, more than 412 groups from all 50 states – ranging from patient advocacy organizations, oncology physician groups, and labor unions to chambers of commerce, veterans, and frontline health care providers – have endorsed the Medicare MCED bill, recognizing its tremendous potential to address cancer disparities through early detection and save and improve lives.

This legislation would give CMS a direct path to cover multi-cancer screenings following FDA approval without compromising their administrative discretion. By passing this bill, Congress would build on a legacy of bipartisan action, having previously enacted coverage pathways for mammography, pap smears, prostate, and colorectal cancer screenings. Absent Congressional approval, Medicare coverage of MCED technologies could be unnecessarily delayed for many years following FDA approval, and the vast majority of seniors would struggle to access these screenings during that time. In addition, increasing early detection will reduce late-stage treatment costs and realize savings for Medicare and seniors, ultimately changing the long-term trajectory of cancer spending.

No family in America has been spared the scourge of cancer. Indeed, for our nation’s seniors, the burden of cancer is highest, with more than 70% of all cancer deaths happening in the Medicare population. We must bring urgency and action to our fight against this terrible disease because the consequences of waiting are too great. We respectfully urge you to bring this bill to the floor this year and pave the way for a future where we win our war on cancer.

Sincerely,



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



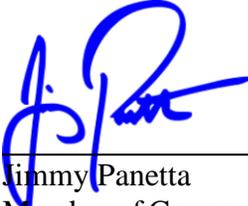
Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



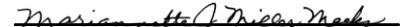
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



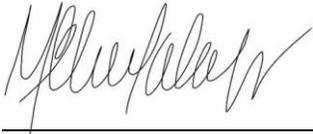
Ronny L. Jackson, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



Mariannette Miller-Meeks,
M.D.
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress

André Carson

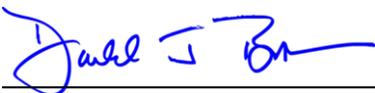
André Carson
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Brian Fitzpatrick
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Kevin Hern
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Don Bacon
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Adrian Smith
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Troy Carter
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Chris Pappas
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Darrell Issa
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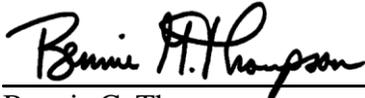
Salud Carbajal
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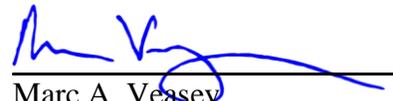
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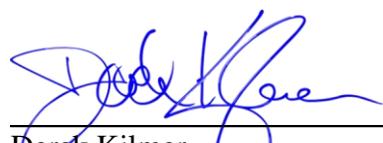
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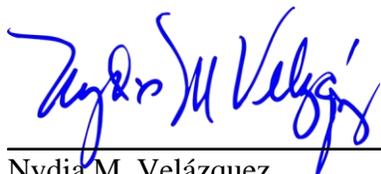
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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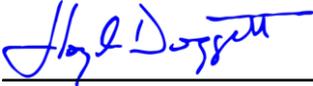
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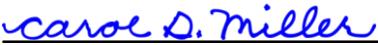
Mike Flood
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A. Donald McEachin
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Tracey Mann
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Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress



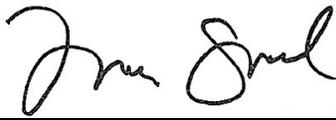
Scott H. Peters
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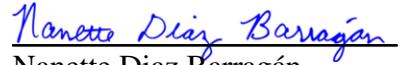
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Andrew R. Garbarino
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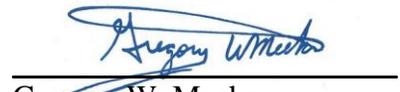
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Colin Z. Allred
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David Kustoff
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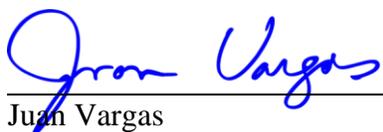
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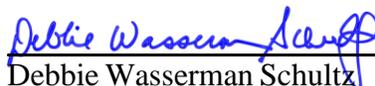
Tony Cárdenas
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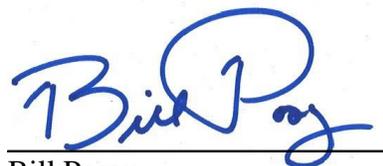
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
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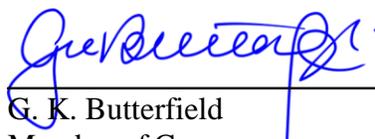
Lori Trahan
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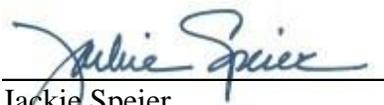
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David N. Cicilline
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David Schweikert
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Andy Kim
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Bill Johnson
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Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



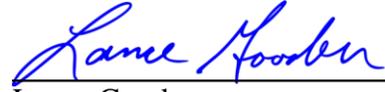
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



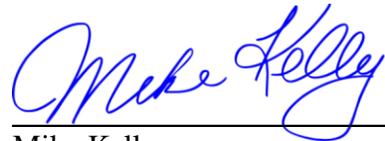
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Claudia Tenney
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Sean Casten
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James P. McGovern
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Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
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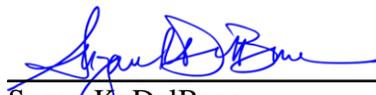
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Deborah K. Ross
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