December 1, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker  House Minority Leader
Washington, DC 20515  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

Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Jodey C. Arrington  
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

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

Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress

Don Bacon  
Member of Congress

Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress
Troy Carter  
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress

Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress

Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Michael Cloud  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress
Michelle Steel
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress

Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress

Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress

A. Drew Ferguson IV
Member of Congress

Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress

David Kustoff
Member of Congress

John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress

Bill Posey  
Member of Congress
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress

Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress

Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

David Schweikert  
Member of Congress

Andy Kim  
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Greg Stanton
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress