



March 16, 2021

Representative Terri Sewell  
2201 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0107

Senator Mike Crapo  
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Jodey Arrington  
1107 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-4319

Senator Michael Bennet  
261 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Raul Ruiz  
2342 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0536

Senator Ben Cardin  
509 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-2002

Representative Richard Hudson  
2112 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-3308

Senator Tim Scott  
104 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Essential legislation in our battle against cancer**

Dear Representatives Sewell, Arrington, Ruiz, and Hudson, and Senators Bennet, Crapo, Cardin, and Scott:

We are writing to convey our support for the Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act due to its enormous potential benefits, both human and economic.

Every day, approximately 1,700 Americans die from cancer. That adds up to more than 600,000 of our friends, neighbors, and loved ones perishing from these diseases each year. It is well known that early detection of cancer saves lives, lowers treatment costs and increases quality of life for patients and their families. In fact, the five-year survival rate is almost 90% when cancer is found in its early stages. Yet we still have so many deaths in the United States stemming from late-stage cancer diagnosis—because until now, we have had only a handful of early detection screening tools.

Today, routine screening is reimbursed for only five types of cancer—breast, cervical, colorectal, prostate, and lung cancer (only in high-risk individuals for lung). That leaves the vast majority of cancers without available screening tests and those cases account for nearly three of every four cancer deaths in the United States each year. The data also show that cancer takes a disproportionate toll on communities of color and rural Americans. The imperative is clear: we must expand our ability to screen for and detect more cancers.

We are encouraged by ongoing clinical trials demonstrating that a groundbreaking new category of cancer screening can detect many deadly cancers in earlier stages. These multi-cancer early detection (MCED) tests utilize advances in genomic science and computing power to, through a simple blood draw, find cancer before it spreads throughout the body. Peer-reviewed research details the effectiveness of these new technologies and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted multiple breakthrough device designations.

As science moves forward, so must health care policy. Currently, Americans most at risk for cancer—Medicare beneficiaries—will face substantial barriers to coverage of multi-cancer early detection tests, even when they are approved by the FDA. Congress has a history of acting to ensure access to cancer screenings, including legislating Medicare coverage of the Pap test, mammography, and colon cancer and prostate cancer screenings, and must act again to ensure seniors don't face unnecessary access barriers to these transformative new early detection tools.

The Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act responds to the misalignment between advances in science and outdated policy by allowing for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer screening. It creates the authority for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to evaluate and cover blood-based multi-cancer early detection tests and future test methods (e.g., urine or hair tests), once approved by the FDA.

Under current law, Medicare coverage of preventive services is limited to circumstances in which Congress has explicitly authorized coverage or the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends the service with a grade of A or B. In the absence of this legislation, it could take several years after FDA approval before Medicare beneficiaries can receive coverage for MCED tests. This bill would greatly reduce any such access delays for seniors while allowing CMS to use its evidence-based process to determine coverage. Accordingly, these new multi-cancer screening tools will complement existing screenings and dramatically improve cancer early detection capabilities.

In 2021, America will recognize the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the National Cancer Act, which officially began our nation's War on Cancer. As we enter the next half-century of combat against the diseases that have brought pain and tragedy to generations of Americans, we are on the precipice of a major scientific advance that may be our best chance of dramatically lowering the number of cancer deaths.

We appreciate your leadership on this legislation to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries, and their health care providers, have access to these transformative new early detection tests.

Sincerely,

Prevent Cancer Foundation

Above + Beyond Cancer  
Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators (AONN)  
AFL-CIO of Delaware  
AIDS Alabama  
AIDS Delaware  
AIDS Response Seacoast  
Aim, Accelerate Indiana Municipalities

Alabama Cancer Association  
Alabama Regional Medical Services  
Alabama Rural Health Association  
Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation  
Alaska Primary Care Association  
Albie Aware Breast Cancer Foundation  
Alive & Kickn  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alliance for Patient Access  
American Arab Chamber of Commerce  
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association  
American Behcet's Disease Association  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Life Sciences Innovation Council  
American Liver Foundation  
American Senior Alliance  
Another Brown Face  
Applied Pharmacy Solutions  
Arkansas Cancer Coalition  
Arkansas Nurses Association  
Arkansas Rural Health Partnership  
Association for Clinical Oncology  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Association of Community Cancer Centers  
Atlanta Cancer Care Foundation, Inc.  
Avera Health  
Bay Area Cancer Connections  
Bella Bowman Foundation  
Bella's House  
Big Bend Cares / Care Point  
Bio Nebraska  
BioFlorida, Inc.  
BioOhio  
Bioscience Association of West Virginia  
Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska  
Brainxcite  
Breast Health Collaborative of Texas  
Brenda's Brown Bosom Buddies, Inc.  
Brookhaven Hospital  
California Black Health Network (CBHN)  
California Chronic Care Coalition  
California Health Collaborative  
California Hepatitis C Task Force  
California Life Sciences Association  
California Women's Law Center  
Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia  
Cancer Advocacy Group of Louisiana  
Cancer Lifeline  
Cancer Support Community  
Cancer Support Community Arizona

Cancer Support Community Ohio  
CancerCare  
Caregiver Action Network  
Caring Ambassadors Program, Inc.  
Carrie's TOUCH  
Cascade AIDS Project  
Celma Mastry Ovarian Cancer Foundation  
CHC: Creating Healthier Communities  
CHPcommunity  
Chronic Care Collaborative  
Chronic Care Policy Alliance  
Chronic Disease Coalition  
Clarkston Community Health Center  
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities  
Coalition of Wisconsin Aging and Health Groups  
Colon Cancer Foundation  
Colorado BioScience Association  
Colorado Cancer Coalition  
Colorado Gerontological Society  
Colorado State Grange  
Colorectal Cancer Alliance  
Combined Health Agencies Drive of Nebraska  
Community Liver Alliance  
Community Oncology Alliance (COA)  
Community Oncology Alliance Patient Advocacy Network (CPAN)  
CURE Childhood Cancer  
Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association  
Delaware BioScience Association  
Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition  
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families  
Delaware State Chamber of Commerce  
ElderHelp of San Diego  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
Filipino Cancer Network of New England Foundation, Inc.  
Florida Academy of Family Physicians  
Florida Breast Cancer Foundation  
Florida Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics, Inc.  
Florida Medical Association  
Florida Society of Clinical Oncology  
Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered  
Friends of Cancer Research  
Friends of Residents in Long Term Care (FOR)  
Georgia Bio  
Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education (Georgia CORE)  
Georgia Ovarian Cancer Alliance  
Georgia Society of Clinical Oncology  
Georgians for a Healthy Future  
Gilda's Club Chicago  
Gilda's Club Quad Cities  
Gilda's Club South Florida

Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest  
Glenn Brackett, President, New Hampshire AFL-CIO  
Global Liver Institute  
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer  
Good Health Ideas Inc. - DBA Colon Cancer Prevention Project  
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute  
H.E.A.L.S. of the South  
Hang Tough Foundation, Inc  
Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center  
Head & Neck Cancer Alliance  
Health Council of South Florida  
Health Resources in Action  
HealthHIV  
HealthyWomen  
Hemophilia Foundation of Greater Florida, Inc  
Hep Free Hawaii  
High Ground Veterans Advocacy  
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana  
Hitting Cancer Below the Belt  
Hoosier Cancer Research Network  
HOPE Network  
ICNA Relief USA  
Idaho Academy of Family Physicians  
Idaho Medical Association  
Idaho Senior Living Council  
Idaho Society of Clinical Oncology  
Idaho Technology Council  
Impact NW  
Indiana Assisted Living Association  
Indiana Cancer Consortium  
Indiana Health Industry Forum  
Indiana Hospice and Palliative Care Organization  
Indiana State Grange  
Indiana State Nurses Association  
Institute for eHealth Equity  
International Association of Hepatitis Task Forces  
International Cancer Advocacy Network (ICAN)  
International Myeloma Foundation  
Iowa Biotechnology Association  
Iowa Medical Society  
Iowa State Grange  
It's The Journey  
John and Junes Mission, Inc.  
JustUs Health  
Kansas Society of Clinical Oncology  
Kay Yow Cancer Fund  
Kelli Leigh Richmond Ovarian Cancer Foundation  
Kentucky Access to Care Coalition  
Kentucky CancerLink  
Kentucky Life Science Council  
Kentucky Prostate Cancer Alliance

Korean Women's Association (KWA)  
La Maestra Family Clinic, Inc  
Ladies Leukemia League  
Las Vegas HEALS  
Laura Crandall Brown Foundation  
Lazarex Cancer Foundation  
LeadingAge Indiana  
Liver Coalition of San Diego  
Looms for Lupus  
Louisiana BIO  
Louisiana Hemophilia Foundation  
Louisiana Oncology Society  
Lumber River United Way  
LUNgevity  
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.  
Lupus Foundation New England  
Lupus Foundation of Southern California  
Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Meals on Wheels Wake County  
Medical Alley  
Medical Oncology Association of Southern California (MOASC)  
Melanoma Research Foundation  
Men's Health Network  
METAvivor Research and Support, Inc  
Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce  
Michigan Beer & Wine Wholesalers Association  
Michigan Biosciences Industry Association (MichBio)  
Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council  
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health  
Michigan Osteopathic Association  
Michigan Society of Hematology and Oncology  
Minneapolis Regional Chamber  
Minnesota Pharmacists Association  
Minnesota Rural Health Association  
Mississippi Center for Justice  
Mississippi Health Alliance  
Mississippi Oncology Society  
Mississippi Public Health Association  
Mississippi Rural Health Association  
Missouri Cures  
Montana BioScience Alliance  
Montana State Oncology Society  
Multiple Sclerosis Foundation Inc  
National Alliance for Hispanic Health  
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs  
National Association of Social Workers North Carolina  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Caucus & Center on Black Aging  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship  
National Consumers League  
National Grange

National Kidney Foundation  
National Minority Quality Forum  
National Oncology State Network (NOSN)  
National Pancreas Foundation  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
Nebraska AIDS Project  
Nebraska Cancer Coalition  
Nebraska Rural Health Association  
Nebraska State Grange  
Nevada Association of Public Safety Officers  
Nevada Cancer Coalition  
Nevada Chronic Care Collaborative  
New England Rural Health Association  
New Generations Adult Day Centers  
New Hampshire Nurses Association  
New Hampshire State Grange  
New Jersey State Grange  
New Mexico Biotechnology & Biomedical Association  
New York State Grange  
North Carolina Biosciences Organization  
North Carolina Psychological Association  
North Carolina State Grange  
North Dakota Nurses Association  
Ohio Hematology Oncology Society  
Oklahoma Bioscience Association  
Oklahoma Nurses Association  
Old North State Medical Foundation  
Oncology Managers of Florida  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Oregon Latino Health Coalition  
Ovarian Cancer Alliance of Oregon and Southwest Washington  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Alabama  
Patient Empowerment Network  
Pennsylvania State Grange  
Potomac Grange  
Prostate Conditions Education Council  
Prostate Health Education Network  
Prostate Network  
Raleigh Chamber of Commerce  
Rare New England  
Regarding Cancer  
Retired Public Employees of Nevada  
Rich Mauti Cancer Fund  
Rural Health Medical Program, Inc.  
Rush to Live  
Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce  
Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce  
San Francisco Women's Cancer Network  
Sanford Health  
SCBIO

Scleroderma Foundation  
Serving Seniors  
Sister's Network  
South Carolina Cancer Alliance  
South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus  
South Dakota Biotech  
South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Southeast Wisconsin Oncology Nursing Society  
Stand Up To Cancer  
State Grange of Minnesota  
Suicide Awareness Voices of Education  
SURVIVEiT  
Survivors CAN!  
Susan G. Komen  
Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute  
Texas Rural Health Association  
The Cancer Challenge  
The Kim Foundation  
The Max Foundation  
The Wall Las Memorias Project  
Touro University Nevada  
Triage Cancer  
Twisted Pink  
UCS Healthcare  
United for Charitable Assistance  
United Partners for Human Services  
Urban League of Portland  
Us TOO International  
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center  
Vasculitis Foundation  
Ventura County Hematology Oncology Specialists  
Vets Place Northwest – Welcome Home  
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)  
Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation  
Visiting Nurse Association  
Washington Student Cancer Awareness Association  
West Central Georgia Cancer Coalition  
Western States Cancer Research NCORP  
Wisconsin Association of Hematology and Oncology (WAHO)  
Wisconsin Breast Cancer Coalition  
Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce  
Wisconsin Nurses Association  
Wisconsin State Grange  
Women's Institute for Secure Retirement  
Wyoming Health Fairs  
Wyoming Nurses Association  
Wyoming State Oncology Society