May 5, 2022

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 Tim Scott  
104 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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

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

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 Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act (S. 1873 and H.R. 1946), 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.

[S. 1873 / H.R. 1946] 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 recognized 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

1in 9 The Long Island Breast Cancer Action Coalition
A 2nd Act AZ
Above + Beyond Cancer
Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators (AONN)
Advocates for Responsible Care (ARxC)
AFL-CIO of Delaware
African American Clergy & Elected Officials (AACEO)
African Ancestry Neuroscience Research Initiative
AIDS Alabama
AIDS Delaware, Inc
AIDS Response Seacoast
Aim, Accelerate Indiana Municipalities
Alabama Cancer Association
Alabama Osteopathic Medical Association
Alabama Regional Medical Services
Alabama Rural Health Association
Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation
Alaska Primary Care Association
Albie Aware Breast Cancer Foundation
AliveAndKickn
Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance for Patient Access
American Arab Chamber of Commerce
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 Solution
Arizona Myeloma Network
Arkansas Cancer Coalition
Arkansas Nurses Association
Arkansas Rural Health Partnership
Association for Clinical Oncology
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of Community Cancer Centers
Association of Northern California Oncologists
Association of Oncology Social Work
Atlanta Cancer Care Foundation, Inc.
Autoimmune Association
Avera Health
AZ BIO
Bag It Cancer
Bay Area Cancer Connections
Bella Bowman Foundation
Bella's House
Big Bend Cares / Care Point
Bio Nebraska
BioFlorida, Inc.
BioForward Wisconsin
BIOOHIO
Bioscience Association of West Virginia
Black Chamber of Arizona
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network
Blue Faery: The Adrienne Wilson Liver Cancer Association
Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona
Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska
Brain Injury Association of Delaware
Brainxcite
Breast Health Collaborative of Texas
Breathe New Hampshire
Brenda's Brown Bosom Buddies, Inc.
Brookhaven Hospital
California Access Coalition
California Black Health Network (CBHN)
California Chronic Care Coalition
California Colorectal Cancer 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 Care Connection
Cancer Caregivers AZ
Cancer Community Clubhouse
Cancer Lifeline
Cancer Support Community
Cancer Support Community - California Central Coast
Cancer Support Community Arizona
Cancer Support Community Delaware
Cancer Support Community Greater Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky
Cancer Support Community Indiana
Cancer Support Community Ohio
Cancer Support Community SF Bay Area
Cancer Support Community South Bay
Cancer Support Community Southwest Colorado
CancerCare
Caregiver Action Network
Caring Ambassadors Program, Inc.
Carrie's TOUCH
Cascade AIDS Project
Celma Mastry Ovarian Cancer Foundation
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
Centers of Wellness for Urban Women
Charleston Parkinson's Support Group
CHC: Creating Healthier Communities
Children’s Cancer Cause
CHPcommunity
Christian Council of Delmarva
Chronic Care Collaborative
Chronic Care Policy Alliance
Chronic Disease Coalition
Clarkston Community Health Center Inc.
Coalition of Hematology and Oncology Practices
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
Coalition of Wisconsin Aging and Health Groups
Colon Cancer Coalition
Colon Cancer Foundation
Colon Cancer Prevention Project
Colon Club
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
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer
Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association
Delaware BioScience Association
Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families
Delaware Pharmacists Society
Delaware State Chamber of Commerce
Easterseals UCP North Carolina & Virginia
ElderHelp of San Diego
Exon 20 Group
Fenway Health
Fibromyalgia Task Force of New York State
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Filipino Cancer Network of New England Foundation, Inc.
Firefighter Cancer Support Network
Florida Academy of Family Physicians
Florida Breast Cancer Foundation
Florida Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics, Inc.
Florida Medical Association
Florida Public Health Association
Florida Rural Health Association
Florida Society of Clinical Oncology
Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
FOR (Friends of Residents in LTC)
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
Forge Survivorship Center
Friends of Cancer Research
Georgia Bio
Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education (Georgia CORE)
Georgia Ovarian Cancer Alliance
Georgia Society of Clinical Society
Georgians for a Healthy Future
Gilda’s Club Kentuckiana
Gilda’s Club New Hampshire
Gilda's Club Chicago
Gilda's Club Kansas City
Gilda's Club Quad Cities
Gilda's Club South Florida
Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest
Glenn Brackett, President, New Hampshire AFL-CIO
Global Healthy Living Foundation
Global Liver Institute
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer
Good Health Ideas Inc. DBA Colon Cancer Prevention Project
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and 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
Hispanic Health Coalition of Georgia (HCGA)
High Ground Veterans Advocacy
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana
Hispanic Health Network
Hitting Cancer Below the Belt
Hoosier Cancer Research Network
Hope for Stomach Cancer
HOPE Network
ICNA Relief USA
Idaho Academy of Family Physicians
Idaho Center for Nursing
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 Oncology Society
Indiana State Grange
Indiana State Nurses Association
Institute for eHealth Equity
International Association of Fire Fighters
International Association of Hepatitis Task Forces
International Cancer Advocacy Network (ICAN)
International Myeloma Foundation
Iowa Biotechnology Association
Iowa Medical Society
Iowa Primary Care Association
Iowa State Grange
It's The Journey
Jewish Family Services of Delaware
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
KidneyCAN
Korean Women's Association (KWA)
Kentucky Prostate Cancer Alliance
La Maestra Family Clinic, Inc
Ladies Leukemia League
Las Vegas HEALS
Latino Commission on AIDS
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
Male Breast Cancer Coalition
Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
National Oncology State Network (NOSN)
National Pancreas Foundation
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Scleroderma Foundation Rocky Mountain Chapter
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
Nevada Oncology Society (NOS)
New England Rural Health Association
New Generations Adult Day Centers
New Jersey State Grange
New Mexico Biotechnology & Biomedical Association
New York State Grange
New Hampshire Nurses Association
New Hampshire State Grange
Norma Livingston Ovarian Cancer Foundation
North Carolina AIDS Action Network
North Carolina Biosciences Organization
North Carolina Psychological Association
North Carolina State Grange
North Dakota Nurses Association
Northeast Kidney Foundation
Ohio Hematology Oncology Society
Oklahoma BioScience Association
Oklahoma Nurses Association
Oklahoma Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc.
Old North State Medical Foundation
Oncology Managers of Florida
Oncology Nursing Society
Oregon Latino Health Coalition
Oregon League of Minority Voters
Ovarian Cancer Alliance of Oregon and Southwest Washington
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Alabama
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Patient Advocates United in San Diego County
Patient Empowerment Network
Pennsylvania State Grange
Pink-4-Ever Ending Disparities
Plumbers, Pipefitters & Service Technicians Local 525
Pontchartrain Cancer Center
Potomac Grange
Prostate Conditions Education Council
Prostate Health Education Network
Prostate Network
Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
Rare New England
Regarding Cancer
Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg & Calhoun Counties
Retired Public Employees of Nevada
Rich Mauti Cancer Fund
Rio Grande Valley Partnership
Rural Health Medical Program, Inc.
Rush to Live Org
Rx in Reach GA Coalition
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
Sjögren's Foundation
Society of Utah Medical Oncologists (SUMO)
South Carolina Cancer Alliance
South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus
South Dakota Biotech
South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Southeast Wisconsin Oncology Nursing Society
Southwest Florida Cancer Control Collaborative
Stand Up To Cancer
State Grange of Minnesota
Suicide Awareness Voices of Education
SURVIVEiT
Survivors CAN!
Susan G. Komen
Teen Cancer America
Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute
Texas Rare Alliance
Texas Rural Health Association
The Cancer Challenge
The Capitol Grange
The Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group-HCMSG
The Kim Foundation
The Max Foundation
The Wall Las Memorias Project
Tivity Health
Touro University Nevada
Triage Cancer
Twisted Pink
Tyanna Barre O'Brien Breast Cancer Foundation
UCS Healthcare
Ulman Cancer Foundation
United for Charitable Assistance
United Partners for Human Services
University of South Florida, College of Public Health, Florida Prevention Research Center
Urban League of Portland
Us TOO International
Valley Health System
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
Watchful Eye
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
You Night Events
ZERO - The End of Prostate Cancer