April 22, 2016

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Capito,

The West Virginia Oncology Society (WVOS) is a non-profit organization that promotes excellence in the care of patients with cancer and hematological disorders. The society represents cancer care providers throughout the state of West Virginia, and is the largest organization in the state representing oncologists. The purpose of the Society is to engender and promote scientific and educational advancements in the field of oncology, including advancements in patient care, clinical trial accrual, pertinent economic and legislative issues affecting all elements of oncology in the state of West Virginia, oncology research, and continuing education of oncology professionals, their staff, and the public.

As oncologists who are committed to the best care for our patients, we wholeheartedly support the bi-partisan Planning Actively for Cancer Treatment (PACT) Act (H.R. 2846). Introduced in the House of Representatives by Reps. Lois Capps (CA) and Charles Boustany (LA), the PACT Act will encourage the development of a personalized cancer care plan for Medicare beneficiaries and improve their care coordination. Written care plans give cancer patients a road map to help guide them through the difficult process of diagnosis, treatment choices, treatment management, and survivorship care. These care plans also encourage shared decision-making between patients and oncologists. As treatment choices in oncology become increasingly complex, we believe that this legislation is particularly important to Medicare beneficiaries, and we would very much like to see this legislation advance in Congress.

We have long recognized your support for other legislation important to cancer patients, such as the Childhood Cancer STAR Act, and your support for cancer institutions in West Virginia. Given your demonstrated commitment to improving cancer care, we hope that you will consider introducing companion legislation to H.R. 2846 in the Senate. We and, most importantly, the thousands of cancer patients in West Virginia who can benefit from care planning and care coordination, would be grateful for your leadership.

If you or your staff have any questions about the bill, you can contact Leah Ralph, Director of Health Policy at the Association of Community Cancer Centers at 301-984-5071 or lralph@accc-cancer.org. Adriane Casalotti in the office of Rep. Capps (adriane.casalotti@mail.house.gov) can also answer any questions you may have about the bill.
Thank you very much for your consideration of this request and we look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,

Ahmed Khalid, MD
President
West Virginia Oncology Society