June 22, 2023

Re: Essential legislation in our battle against cancer

Dear Representative Jodey Arrington, Senator Mike Crapo,
Representative Terri Sewell, Senator Michael Bennet,
Representative Richard Hudson, Senator Ben Cardin,
Representative Raul Ruiz, Senator Tim Scott:

We are writing to convey our support for the Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act (H.R. 2407) / Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act (S. 2085), 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.

Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act (H.R. 2407) / Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act (S. 2085) responds to the misalignment between advances in science and outdated policy by allowing for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer screening. Specifically, the legislation would:

1. Create the authority for CMS to cover blood-based MCED tests and future test methods once approved by the FDA and shown to have clinical benefit.
2. Maintain CMS’ authority to use an evidence-based process to determine coverage parameters for these new tests.
3. Clarify that (1) these new tools will complement, not replace, existing screenings and coverage and (2) cost sharing will not be impacted.

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

1 in 9 The Long Island Breast Cancer Action Coalition
A 2nd Act AZ
A. Philip Randolph Institute of Ohio
Above + Beyond Cancer
Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio
Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators (AONN)
ACT Ohio
Advocates for Responsible Care (ARxC)
AFL-CIO of Delaware
African American Clergy & Elected Officials (AACEO)
African Ancestry Neuroscience Research Initiative
Aging & In-Home Services of Northeast Indiana, Inc.
AIDS Alabama
AIDS Delaware, Inc
AIDS Response Seacoast
Aim, Accelerate Indiana Municipalities
Alabama Cancer Association
Alabama Cancer Congress
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
AliveAndKicking
Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance for Patient Access
American Arab Chamber of Commerce
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Behcet's Disease Association
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Life Sciences Innovation Council
American Liver Foundation
American Lung Association
American Lung Association of Illinois
American Senior Alliance
AMVETS (American Veterans)
Another Brown Face
Applied Pharmacy Solution
Arizona Myeloma Network
Arizona Prostate Cancer Coalition
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 Oncology Social Work
Atlanta Cancer Care Foundation, Inc.
Autoimmune Association
Avera Health
AZ Aging
AZ BIO
Bag It Cancer
Bay Area Cancer Connections
Bella Bowman Foundation
Bella's House
Big Bend Cares / Care Point
Celma Mastry Ovarian Cancer Foundation
Center for Global Health Innovation
Center for Healthcare Innovation
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
Center for Patient Advocacy Leaders (CPALs)
Centers of Wellness for Urban Women
Centralina Area Agency on Aging
Charleston Parkinson’s Support Group
CHC: Creating Healthier Communities
Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition
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 Black Trade Unionists - Region 5
Coalition of Hematology and Oncology Practices
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
Coalition of Wisconsin Aging and Health Groups
Colon Cancer Alliance for Research & Education for Lynch Syndrome
Colon Cancer Coalition
Colon Cancer Foundation
Colon Cancer Prevention Project
Colon Club
Colorado BioScience Association
Colorado Cancer Coalition
Colorado Gerontological Society
Colorado Professional Fire Fighters
Colorado State Grange
Colorectal Cancer Alliance
Columbus Building Trades Council
Columbus Firefighters - Local 67
Combined Health Agencies Drive of Nebraska
Communications Workers of America District 4
Community Liver Alliance
Community Oncology Alliance (COA)
Community Oncology Alliance Patient Advocacy Network (CPAN)
Connecticut State Grange
CURE Childhood Cancer
Cures Within Reach
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer
Defeat Malnutrition Today
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
Delaware State Grange
Dia de la Mujer Latina
District of Columbia Firefighters Association (IAFF Local 36)
Easterseals UCP North Carolina & Virginia
ElderHelp of San Diego
Envisioning Access (formerly Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers)
Exon 20 Group
Feedmore WNY
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
Fundacion Latinoamericana De Accion Social, Inc. (FLAS)
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 Chicago
Gilda's Club Kansas City
Gilda's Club Quad Cities
Gilda's Club South Florida
Gilda’s Club Kentuckiana
Gilda’s Club New Hampshire
Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest
Glenn Brackett, President, New Hampshire AFL-CIO
Global Colon Cancer Association
Global Healthy Living Foundation
Global Liver Institute
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer
Good Health Ideas Inc. DBA Colon Cancer Prevention Project
Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce
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
Hereditary Neuropathy Foundation
High Ground Veterans Advocacy
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana
Hispanic Health Coalition of Georgia (HHCGA)
Hispanic Health Network
Hitting Cancer Below the Belt
HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute
Hoosier Cancer Research Network
Hope for Stomach Cancer
HOPE Network
Hospitality Minnesota
HunterSeven Foundation
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 State Grange
Idaho Technology Council
Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness
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.
Joint Council Of Teamsters No. 28
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
KidneyCAN
Korean Women's Association (KWA)
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
Liver Health Initiative
Long Term Care Community Coalition
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
Maine State Grange
Male Breast Cancer Coalition
Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Maryland Rural Health Association
Maryland State Grange
Massachusetts AFL-CIO
Massachusetts Biotechnology Council
Massachusetts Society of Clinical Oncologist (MSCO)
Meals on Wheels North Carolina
Meals on Wheels People
Meals on Wheels Wake County
Medford Grange #188
Medical Alley
Medical Oncology Association of Southern California (MOASC)
Melanoma Research Foundation
Men’s Health Network
METAivivor Research and Support, Inc.
Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association
Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce
Michelle's Place Cancer Resource Center
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
Michigan State Grange
Minneapolis Regional Chamber
Minnesota Grocers Association
Minnesota Independent Physicians Association
Minnesota Pharmacists Association
Minnesota Retailers Association
Minnesota Rural Health Association
Mississippi Center for Justice
Mississippi Health Alliance
Mississippi Oncology Society
Mississippi Rural Health Association
Missouri Cures
Missouri Oncology Society
Montana BioScience Alliance
Montana State Grange
Montana State Oncology Society
Montgomery County (MD) Career Fire Fighters - IAFF Local 1664
Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Inc.
MS Public Health Association
Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation
Multiple Sclerosis Foundation Inc.
My Style Matters, Inc.
NAMI San Diego and Imperial Counties
National Aging in Place Council
National Alliance for Caregiving
National Alliance for Hispanic Health
National Association of Hispanic Nurses Houston Chapter
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs
National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter
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 Menopause Foundation
National Minority Quality Forum
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)
Nevada Senior Services Inc.
New England Rural Health Association
New Generations Adult Day Centers
New Hampshire Nurses Association
New Hampshire Public Health Association
New Hampshire State Grange
New Jersey State Grange
New Mexico Biotechnology & Biomedical Association
New York State Alliance for Retired Americans
New York State Grange
New York State Professional Firefighters Association
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
Northeast Ohio Liver Alliance
Northwest Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council
Ohio AFL-CIO
Ohio Association of Public School Employees
Ohio Federation of Teachers
Ohio Fraternal Order of Police
Ohio Hematology Oncology Society
Ohio Life Sciences (formerly BioOhio)
Ohio Medical Group Management Association
Ohio State Grange
Ohio Unity Coalition
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
Oregon State Fire Fighters Council
Ovarian Cancer Alliance of Oregon and Southwest Washington
Painted Pink
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Alabama
Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease
Patient Advocates United in San Diego County
Patient Empowerment Network
Paxson LLC dba Oasis Senior Advisors Delaware
Pennsylvania Professional Fire Fighters Association
Pennsylvania Professional Fire Fighters Association
Pennsylvania State Grange
Pink-4-Ever Ending Disparities
 Plumbers, Pipefitters & Service Technicians Local 525
Pontchartrain Cancer Center
Potomac Grange
Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics of North Carolina
Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland
Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts
Professional Firefighters Association of NJ (PFANJ)
Professional Firefighters of Maryland
Professional Firefighters of New Hampshire
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
Respiratory Health Association
Retired Public Employees of Nevada
RetireSafe
Reveille Foundation
Rhode Island State Association of Fire Fighters
Rich Mauti Cancer Fund
Rio Grande Valley Partnership
Rural Health Medical Program, Inc.
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
Senior Resources of Guilford
SeniorCare Inc.
Serving Seniors
Sister's Network
Sisters CANcervive
Sisters Working It Out
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
Southern Seven Health Department
Southwest Florida Cancer Control Collaborative
Stand Up To Cancer
State Grange of Minnesota
State of Texas Kidney Foundation
Suicide Awareness Voices of Education
SURVIVEiT
Survivors CAN!
Survivors Cancer Action Network
Susan G. Komen
Teamsters Local 763
Teen Cancer America
Tennessee State Grange
Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute
Texas Rare Alliance
Texas Rural Health Association
Texas State Grange
TexHealth Central Texas
The Cancer Challenge
The Capitol Grange
The Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
The Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group-HCMSG
The Kim Foundation
The Kyle Palmieri Foundation
The Latino Cancer Institute
The Max Foundation
The Translatin@ Coalition
The Viscardi Center
The Wall Las Memorias Project
Tivity Health
Touro University Nevada
Triage Cancer
Twisted Pink
Tyanna Barre O'Brien Breast Cancer Foundation
UCS Healthcare
UFCW Local 881
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
Vermont State Grange
Vets Place Northwest – Welcome Home
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)
Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation
Visiting Nurse Association
Washington Association of Senior Nutrition Providers
Washington Student Cancer Awareness Association
Watchful Eye
West Central Georgia Cancer Coalition
Western States Cancer Research NCORP
WICK Enterprises, INC.
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