

July 12, 2022

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady,

On behalf of the nation's leading cancer advocacy organizations, we formally request the House Committee on Ways and Means hold a hearing on H.R. 1946, the Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act.

Since the introduction of [H.R. 1946](#), this coalition – along with [more than 400](#) advocacy organizations across all 50 states – has encouraged leaders in Congress to support this important piece of legislation. We are pleased to see that over half of the U.S. House of Representatives, including 36 Ways and Means Committee members, and 39 Energy and Commerce Committee members, support passage of the bill. This is a significant milestone. We are thankful to all of the members who have voiced their support for H.R. 1946.

Cancer impacts everyone, claiming the lives of more than [600,000 Americans this year](#). Nearly three-quarters of those deaths are due to cancers that do not have recommended screening tests available. In fact, there are screenings for only five of the over 200 different cancers. In clinical trials, multi-cancer early detection (MCED) tests have demonstrated the ability to detect dozens of cancers before any clinical symptoms would have alerted a patient to their cancer. These technologies not only have the potential to save lives, but they could help address health disparities, bringing early cancer technologies to underserved and rural communities. When cancers are found in an early stage, patients have a greater likelihood of surviving cancer. **These technologies can potentially help us increase survivability, giving us more time with our loved ones, and pave the way for a new understanding of the disease.**

The Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act responds to a misalignment between advances in science and Medicare coverage by creating the authority for CMS to cover blood-based multi-cancer early detection tests and future test methods (like urine or hair tests), once approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and clinical benefit is shown. Congress has acted before to create coverage for other cancer screenings including mammography and colorectal screenings and this legislation would similarly enable access to these new multi-cancer early detection screening tools while maintaining CMS' authority to use an evidence-based process to determine coverage parameters for these new tests. Passing this important legislation now could incentivize the

field of multi-cancer early detection and encourage innovation in screening that will deliver tremendous value for patients and the Medicare program.

We urge the Committee to hold a legislative hearing on this critical legislation. Now more than ever, Medicare enrollees need access to cancer early detection tools. There are cancers growing, undetected, in patients who will catch it too late. With over half of the House on our side, the time is now to advance the Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
Association of Community Cancer Centers
Cancer Support Community
Fight Colorectal Cancer
National Minority Quality Forum
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance
Prevent Cancer Foundation

CC: Congresswoman Terri Sewell (AL-07)
 Congressman Jodey Arrington (TX-19)