



April 7, 2017

Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
United States House of Representatives
1314 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 1834, Cancer Care Payment Reform Act

Dear Representative McMorris Rodgers:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write to thank you for introducing H.R. 1834, the Cancer Care Payment Reform Act.

This legislation would establish a national Oncology Medical Home Demonstration Project under the Medicare program for the purpose of changing the Medicare payment for cancer care in order to enhance the quality of care and to improve cost efficiency.

As you know, cancer is one of the nation's leading causes of death. Each year in the United States, approximately 1.6 million people are diagnosed with cancer, another 595,000 die from this terrible disease, and more than 14.5 million Americans count themselves among the growing community of cancer survivors. Oncology nurses are the health professionals involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and managing the associated side effects cancer patients may experience. Every day, oncology nurses see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment.

ONS is a professional organization of over 39,000 registered nurses and other health care providers dedicated to excellence in patient care, education, research, and administration in oncology nursing. ONS members are a diverse group of professionals who represent a variety of professional roles, practice settings, and subspecialty practice areas. Oncology nurses are leaders in the health care arena, committed to continuous learning and leading the transformation of cancer care by advocating for high-quality care for people with cancer.

The growing demand for cancer care, from prevention to palliative care, requires oncology nurses to play a pivotal and increasingly important role in delivering high quality, safe, effective, and efficient health care to people affected by, or at risk for, cancer. Thank you for recognizing this vital part oncology nurses play in cancer care in this legislation.

We stand ready to work with you and your staff to support efforts to build a better payment system for oncology care, and ONS is committed to maximizing the potential that nurses, the largest group of health care professionals, have in reducing the incidence of cancer. We would be

happy to discuss ways in which ONS may be of assistance in this endeavor, and would encourage you to contact Alec Stone, MA, MPA, ONS Director of Health Policy, at astone@ons.org. We look forward to engaging in an ongoing dialogue to address issues of importance to our cancer patients and ways in which we can promote public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan M. Schneider".

Susan Schneider, PhD, RN, AOCN®, FAAN
President
Oncology Nursing Society