March 28, 2017

Honorable Patty Murray  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand  
478 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support of S. 689, the Invest in Women’s Health Act

Dear Senator Murray, Senator Gillibrand, and Senator Baldwin:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write to thank you for introducing S. 689, the Invest in Women’s Health Act. S. 689 will increase the availability of life-saving cancer screenings, placing an emphasis on those populations most at risk through the creation of new grants to expand access to preventive screenings, ensuring the availability of up to date research, and training for new providers and for the treatment of low-income and women of color.

As you know, over 310,000 women are diagnosed with either breast, ovarian, cervical, or uterine cancer each year. 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, we 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. The Invest in Women’s Health Act will increase the education, information, and preventive screenings that are crucial for increasing cancer survival among women.

ONS is a professional organization of over 39,000 registered nurses and other healthcare 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 healthcare arena, committed to continuous learning and leading the transformation of cancer care by advocating for high-quality care for people with cancer.

Please know that ONS and its members very much appreciate your leadership on the issue of access to preventive cancer screenings. We stand ready to work with you and your staff to reduce and prevent suffering from 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,

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