



May 23, 2017

Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
1114 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support of H.R. 2307, the Protect Access to Lifesaving Screenings (PALS) Act

Dear Representative Wasserman Schultz:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write in support of H.R. 2307, the Protect Access to Lifesaving Screenings (PALS) Act. This legislation would help eliminate barriers for patients seeking access to early intervention and life-saving mammography screenings.

ONS was very concerned about the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommendations questioning the effectiveness of mammograms for women between the ages of 40-49. As oncology nurses, we strongly believe that breast cancer screening is an important tool for an early cancer diagnosis. The American Cancer Society estimates that approximately 231,840 new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed each year in women in the United States. Further, breast cancer has a disproportionate and detrimental impact on African-American women and is the most common cancer among Hispanic women. The USPSTF guidelines could have a chilling effect on screenings because federal law requires health plan coverage of preventive services without patient cost-sharing if the USPSTF assigns a screening an A or B rating.

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. 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.

Our policy agenda includes advancing and ensuring access to quality cancer prevention and care. Therefore, we look forward to working with you to achieve passage of this important legislation. 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan M. Schneider".

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