



Oncology Nursing Society

125 Enterprise Drive • Pittsburgh, PA 15275-1214
Toll Free: 866-257-4ONS • Phone: 412-859-6100 • Fax: 412-859-6165
help.ons.org • www.ons.org

March 19, 2018

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
115 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ted Poe
2132 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support of H.R. 5160, Cancer Care Planning and Communications Act

Dear Representatives DeSaulnier and Poe:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write to thank you for introducing H.R. 5160, the Cancer Care Planning and Communications Act. This legislation would improve provider-patient communication by enabling providers to bill Medicare for the time they spend developing comprehensive cancer care plans.

As you know, cancer is the cause of nearly one out of every four deaths in the United States. Every day, oncology nurses see suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer, and their families, face throughout the cancer care continuum. By receiving the proper information at the time of cancer diagnosis, and throughout the treatment process into survivorship, this legislation would empower patients through shared decision-making and care coordination.

ONS is a professional association of more than 39,000 members committed to promoting excellence in oncology nursing and the transformation of cancer care. Since 1975, ONS has provided a professional community for oncology nurses, developed evidence-based education programs and treatment information, and advocated for patient care, all in an effort to improve quality of life and outcomes for patients with cancer and their families. Together, ONS and the cancer community seek to reduce the risks, incidence, and burden of cancer by encouraging healthy lifestyles, promoting early detection, and improving the management of cancer symptoms and side effects throughout the disease trajectory.

Please know that ONS and its members very much appreciate your leadership in striving to improve cancer care. 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 encourage you to contact Donna (Dede) Sweeney, ONS Director of Government Affairs, at dsweeney@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