



September 3, 2019

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Susan Brooks
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 4078, to reauthorize the Young Women's Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act

Dear Representative Wasserman Schultz and Representative Brooks:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write to thank you for sponsoring legislation to reauthorize and increase funding for the Breast Cancer Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young (EARLY) Act. This bill will allow for the continuation of vital work to educate young women and certain women at higher risk of breast cancer about their breast health.

As you know, one in eight women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer over their lifetime, and a total of 331,530 new cases of breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in American women in 2019 alone. 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 and their families 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 EARLY Act has been a critical tool in empowering women with access to breast cancer information and resources that are crucial throughout their lifetimes. Please know that ONS and its members very much appreciate your leadership on the issue of breast health awareness, and 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, Director of Public Affairs, 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 blue ink that reads "Laura Fennimore".

Laura Fennimore, RN, DNP. NEA-BC
President, Oncology Nursing Society