



April 2, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Luria
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for H.R.5858 – Military Pilot Cancer Incidence Study Act

Dear Representative Luria:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write to thank you for sponsoring legislation to require the Department of Defense to study and report on the incidence of cancer diagnosis and mortality among pilots in the uniformed services. The study would also be required to determine the appropriate age to begin screening such members for cancer.

ONS is concerned with the alarming anecdotal evidence provided by former Navy and Air Force pilots of the increased incidence of cancer at a young age due to cockpit exposure. 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. We wholeheartedly believe that our country has a duty to ensure our service men and women receive the best care possible, including early detection and prevention for all cancers.

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.

Please know that ONS and its members very much appreciate your leadership in support of cancer patients and our service men and women. We would be happy to discuss ways in which ONS may be of assistance 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 members and ways in which we can promote public health.
