



October 14, 2020

The Honorable Norma J. Torres
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 8441, the Frontline Heroes Act

Dear Representative Torres:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write to thank you for introducing H.R. 8441, the Frontline Heroes Act, which would provide survivor benefits to the families of health care workers who pass away from COVID-19 and disability benefits for health care workers who are disabled due to complications from COVID-19.

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 COVID-19 pandemic has rapidly intensified the daily lives of all health care workers, including oncology nurses. People with cancer have been identified as more vulnerable to serious effects from COVID-19 infection and require additional vigilance to prevent exposure to the virus. Our members have expressed major concerns about the impact of COVID-19 on the availability and use of personal protective equipment (PPE), cancer treatment, staffing levels, and psychosocial care for people with cancer.

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 health care workers on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Houlihan".

Nancy Houlihan, MA, RN, AOCN
President