



December 22, 2020

The Honorable Mike Crapo
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support for S.5051, Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act

Dear Senator Crapo:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write to thank you for introducing S.5051, the Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act.

As you know, the American Cancer Society estimates that in 2020, there will be an estimated 1.8 million new cancer cases diagnosed and 606,520 cancer deaths in the United States. Nearly 42 percent of all these newly diagnosed cancers may be avoidable, however, and early detection through recommended screening can help patients get treatment before their cancer advances, when it is most successful. Your legislation would help ensure that Medicare beneficiaries receive prompt access to multi-cancer screening tests once they are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

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.

Thank you for your leadership in helping to advance innovation in cancer screening. ONS stands 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,

The Oncology Nursing Society