



May 21, 2021

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
521 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Support of S.Res.208, supporting the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week**

Dear Senator Merkley:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write to thank you for introducing S.Res.208, supporting the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, observed from May 6 through May 12, 2021. S.Res.208 acknowledges the significant contributions of nurses to the health care system of the United States and encourages the nation to recognize the importance of nurses to the everyday lives of patients.

Recognizing the role of nurses is particularly appropriate given the critical role they have played on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic. The current public health crisis has rapidly intensified the daily lives of all nurses, including oncology nurses. Our members 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.

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 the nursing profession. 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](mailto: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