



April 3, 2023

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: S. 892, *Colorectal Cancer Detection Act***

Dear Senator Heinrich:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), thank you for introducing S. 892, the *Colorectal Cancer Detection Act*. This critical legislation would increase access to colorectal cancer screenings by authorizing blood-based screening tests for reimbursement under the Medicare program.

As you know, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men and women combined in the United States. This year, more than 153,020 individuals in the United States will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and approximately 52,550 will die from it. The *Colorectal Cancer Detection Act* would expand screening options and enable earlier detection of colorectal cancer by authorizing all Food and Drug Administration-approved blood-based screening tests for Medicare reimbursement. 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 represents the interests of the 110,000 US oncology nurses 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.

ONS and its members 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 Government Affairs and Advocacy, 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