



## Oncology Nursing Society

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Dear Member of Congress:

As lawmakers return from August recess this week and discussions about health care reform continue, the Oncology Nursing Society urges you to begin work in a bipartisan manner on efforts to strengthen and stabilize the health insurance market, and to protect access to affordable, quality cancer care for all Americans.

Cancer is the nation's second-leading cause of death (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016). Each year in the United States, approximately 1.69 million people are diagnosed with cancer, another 595,690 die from the disease (National Cancer Institute, 2016), and nearly 15.5 million Americans count themselves among the growing community of cancer survivors (American Cancer Society, 2016). ONS calls on Congress to advance the quality of cancer care by:

- Ensuring access to high quality and low cost insurance options;
- Maintaining protections for pre-existing conditions; and
- Accelerating the development of innovative cancer care delivery and payment models that improve access to the provision of quality cancer care 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. Through our professional community, oncology nurses develop evidence-based education programs and treatment information, advocate for patient care, and seek to improve quality of life and outcomes for cancer patients and their families. Together, ONS and the cancer community seek to reduce the risks, incidence, and burden of cancer by encouraging healthy lifestyles, promoting early detection, and improving the management of cancer symptoms and side effects throughout the disease trajectory.

On behalf of our members who are on the front lines caring for patients with cancer, we feel it is imperative that we continue to share our strong support for patient-centered care and a thoughtful and compassionate approach to improving our nation's health care system.

We gladly offer ONS and our chapters in your respective states as a resource, and we welcome the opportunity to discuss health care reform and its impact on cancer patients. We are eager to share our expertise and experiences with you and hope you will not hesitate to reach out to us.

We would be happy to discuss ways in which ONS may be of assistance in this endeavor, and would encourage you to contact Donna (Dede) Sweeney, ONS Director of Government Relations, at [dsweeney@ons.org](mailto:dsweeney@ons.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan M. Schneider".

Susan Schneider, PhD, RN, AOCN®, FAAN  
President, Oncology Nursing Society