

March X, 2022

New York State Legislature
Albany NY 12248

Re: Support for the New York State Cancer Services Program

Dear Assembly/Senator Member:

Each of our organizations share a common goal of increasing access to life-saving cancer screening. On behalf of all our organizations, we respectfully request that you support increasing funding for the New York State Cancer Services Program (CSP) to \$21.8 million in Fiscal Year 2022-2023. This modest increase in funding would help the Cancer Services Program serve their existing patients and expand outreach to those in need.

The CSP provides uninsured and under insured New Yorkers with access to breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screenings. Each year the CSP provides approximately 29,300 Breast cancer screening services, 7,600 Cervical cancer screening services, and 4,200 Colorectal cancer screening services.

Evidence based cancer services programs like CSP are critical to improving outcomes for the 17,800 new cases of breast cancer, 870 new cases of cervical cancer, and 8,950 new cases of colorectal cancer that will be diagnosed in New York this year.

COVID-19 has significantly reshaped the healthcare landscape in New York. Thousands of New Yorkers have delayed screening since the pandemic began. A nationwide survey showed that nearly half (46%) of cancer patients and survivors reported a change to their financial situation that affected their ability to pay for care. With nearly a million New Yorkers lacking health insurance, programs like the CSP are critical to improving patient outcomes.

While the CSP serves over 20,000 patients each year, over 200,000 New Yorkers are potentially eligible for the CSP based on their age, income, and insurance status.

Since the CSP had its state funding cut by 21% in 2017-18, its budget has remained flat. Despite the increased need, Governor Hochul's proposed 2022-23 budget maintains the current level of funding at \$19.825 million. After nearly two years of patients delaying care, including accessing their doctor recommended cancer screening, and a growing number of New Yorkers needing help getting screened, funding to CSP must increase.

We respectfully request that you support increasing funding for the CSP to \$21.8 million in Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Health care professionals are doing their part to get New Yorkers back to screening. We need our state leaders to do their part. Let's screen New York!

For more information or questions, please contact Michael Davoli at michael.davoli@cancer.org or at 212-237-3853.

Sincerely,