

Dear Senate and House Leadership and Committee Chairs and Ranking Members:

On behalf of over 520 leading national, state, and local advocacy organizations endorsing H.R. 2407 (*the Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act*) and S. 2085 (*the Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act*), **we are writing to respectfully urge you to advance this policy through the legislative process and pass it this year.**

H.R. 2407 and S. 2085 have just reached a rare and incredible milestone for a modern healthcare proposal, earning the active support of a bipartisan majority of members in both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. These strong bipartisan endorsements represent the full diversity of constituent demographics and political ideologies. Support from lawmakers within Congressional committees of jurisdiction is even more sweeping: 77% of Ways and Means members, 63% of Energy and Commerce members, and 70% of Senate Finance Committee members have co-sponsored meaningful, equitable, and timely access to transformational advancements in cancer screening technology.

This level of forceful support is a recognition of the incredible burden of cancer across America, and the unmet need in earlier detection. The number of policies that enjoy this kind of bipartisan, bicameral, and expert community support are few and far between. H.R. 2407/S. 2085 is not only common sense, but it is the kind of policy that American's send lawmakers to Washington to advance. It is forward thinking, ensuring that policy is aligned with scientific innovation, while at the same time based on clear Congressional precedent. Your action on this bill is a unique and urgent opportunity to make a lasting impact on cancer care and quality of life.

Attached to this note please see a showing of the support this bill has received from organizations representing the cancer and health equity advocacy community.

With undeniable support for this legislation, now is the time to get it across the finish line. The undersigned advocates urge Congress to enact H.R. 2407 / S. 2085 into law this year. We appreciate your leadership and hope to serve as a resource.

Sincerely,

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
Association of Community Cancer Centers
Cancer Support Community
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Go2 for Lung Cancer
Prevent Cancer Foundation
The National Grange
National Minority Quality Forum
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance

"The positive momentum for this bill has been energizing for all of us dedicated to preventing deaths due to cancer," **said Jody Hoyos, President and COO of the Prevent Cancer Foundation.** "We appreciate the leadership of Representatives Sewell, Arrington, Ruiz and Hudson and join them in celebrating this significant milestone: a bipartisan majority of cosponsors of the bill. We cannot move forward in decreasing health inequities and reducing cancer mortality without innovations that detect more cancers early and are accessible to all who need them."

"ACS CAN is thrilled to see the strong bipartisan support for the MCED bill in the House," **said Lisa Lacasse, President of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN).** "We know early detection is critical to surviving cancer, so ensuring Medicare beneficiaries have access to the newest screening technology once approved by the FDA and shown to have clinical benefit will mean fewer lives lost to this disease."

"The Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) applauds Reps. Sewell, Arrington, Ruiz, and Hudson for their leadership in reaching this milestone and garnering an impressive amount of bipartisan support for this vital piece of legislation," **said Christian G. Downs, JD, MHA, ACCC Executive Director.** "ACCC's members are seeing and treating increasing numbers of Americans with late-stage cancer diagnoses, and this bill has great potential to help patients and providers access promising new technologies capable of detecting cancer earlier. In particular, creating a pathway to Medicare coverage for MCED tests will help to ensure equitable access to these technologies once they are approved by the FDA and start to address disparities in early detection and outcomes among racial and ethnic minorities."

"The National Minority Quality Forum applauds the bipartisan momentum towards passage of the Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act," **said Gary A. Puckrein, PhD, President and CEO of the National Minority Quality Forum.** "This bill will have a significant impact on the well-documented inequities in cancer detection and outcomes that communities of color experience in this country every day. Thanks to the leadership of Rep. Sewell, those at greatest risk for deadly cancers, older Americans, will have access to innovative tools that will reduce their risk for late detection and less than ideal outcomes of care."

"The National Grange is calling on policymakers to prioritize the health of rural Americans and commit to ensuring access to the tools needed to address cancer disparities," **said Burton Eller, Legislative Director of the National Grange.** "This includes advancing policies like the Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act which enjoys broad bipartisan support and prevents seniors in rural communities from facing unnecessary access delays to new multi-cancer screening tools once they are approved by the FDA."

"Having served hundreds of thousands of patients since our founding, we at the Cancer Support Community (CSC) have witnessed both the experiences of those who benefited from early detection of their cancer and those who did not and were often diagnosed at later stages, due to barriers in knowledge, access, both coverage and logistical, or lack of existing tests for their cancer. On behalf of CSC, we are proud to add our voice to the chorus in urging passage of the Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act which has widespread support from Congress and the cancer community and applaud Representatives Arrington, Sewell, Hudson, and Ruiz for helping to ensure that government keeps up with the speed of healthcare innovation," **said Cancer Support Community.** "We believe MCED has the potential to transform cancer detection as we know it. There is no doubt, that current recommended screening tests save lives. However, about 70% of incident cancers have no standard of care screening test. The Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act would create a pathway for Medicare recipients to access MCED screening technology. We are grateful to have leaders in the U.S. Senate that share our commitment to creating solutions that break down barriers to care with the goal of improving health services and outcomes."

"Catching cancer early is paramount in treating and beating the disease. Yet in the case of lung cancer, less than 6 percent of eligible Americans have been screened, and some states have screening rates as low as 1 percent. Multi-cancer early detection technology breaks down barriers to screening for dozens of cancers through a simple blood draw," **said GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer.** "Representatives Arrington, Sewell,

Hudson, and Ruiz and Senators Crapo, Bennet, Scott, and Cardin are leading the way to give seniors access to this groundbreaking technology through Medicare. The Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act and the Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act will increase access to screening for those most at-risk for all cancers – older Americans. We urge others to join them in this fight.”

““The Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act/ The Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act is an important step toward early detection for many cancers. We are making real progress in screening more Americans for colorectal cancer and innovations in screening tools is a key part of that,” **said Fight Colorectal Cancer**. “As technology advances, we must ensure that all patients have access to new, safe and effective technology. We commend Representatives Arrington, Sewell, Hudson, and Ruiz and Senators Crapo, Bennet, Scott, and Cardin for taking an important step in that direction and working to have fewer Americans receive a cancer diagnosis.”

“We lose over 600,000 Americans every year to cancer, often because their cancers were detected too late. Many cancers, including ovarian cancer, have no recommended early screenings available. This status quo cannot stand,” **said Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance**. “The Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act would ensure senior’s timely access to MCED tests when they are deemed to be safe and effective by the FDA. Our nation’s health rests on equal access to quality healthcare and we’re grateful to those in Congress who recognize this need.”