



May 31, 2022

The Honorable Raul Ruiz, M.D.
 2342 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ruiz,

We write to express our sincere gratitude for your leadership of H.R. 1946, the Medicare Multi- Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act, and share our steadfast commitment to working with you to swiftly enact this important legislation. Congress has a number of urgent priorities, but the fact remains that cancer will take the lives of more than 600,000 Americans this year alone.^[1] Working together, we can drive this figure down.

It is estimated that there will be 189,220 new cancer cases diagnosed in California in 2022.^[2] For too many of those Americans, their diagnosis will come too late, after the cancer has already spread throughout the body. Late-stage cancer is often fatal. For example, only 6 percent of individuals diagnosed with late-stage lung cancer survive 5 years after their diagnosis.^[3] Your support of H.R. 1946 can help change that.

As you know, new blood-based screenings hold tremendous promise to find cancer earlier, before symptoms arise. By combining the latest advances in genomic sequencing and computing power, multi- cancer tests have shown the ability to detect many cancers from a simple blood draw.^[4] These new tools are expected to dramatically expand the benefits of early detection to more cancers, and expand detection's reach to more settings of care, enabling earlier treatment for a wider range of cancers. First, however, seniors and others at highest risk for developing cancer must have pathways to access in Medicare.

Building on previous congressional action to provide a coverage pathway for mammograms, pap- smears, and colonoscopies, we stand ready to support Congressional action with the passage H.R. 1946. This bill will ensure there is equitable access to these multi-cancer tests once they are approved by the Food and Drug Administration and are shown to have clinical benefit. We were also

pleased to see President Biden's support for multi-cancer early detection as part of his recent cancer moonshot initiative, and hope this can contribute to the legislation's continued progress.^[5]

It is our hope that this bill moves forward to enactment as quickly as possible this year.

Thank you again for your leadership of this legislation.

Sincerely,



Jen Grand-Lejano
Government Relations Director, Northern CA
ACS-CAN California



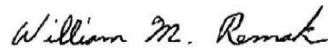
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Liz Helms
President & Chief Executive Officer,
California Chronic Care Coalition



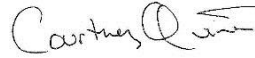
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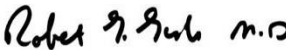
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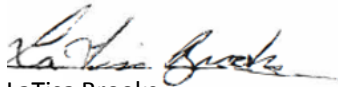
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^[1] [American Cancer Society. *Cancer Facts & Figures 2022*. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2022.](#)

^[2] [Id.](#)

^[3] [Id.](#)

^[4] Liu MC, Oxnard GR, Klein EA, Swanton C, Seiden MV. Sensitive and specific multi-cancer detection and localization using methylation signatures in cell-free DNA. *Annals of Oncol.* 2020; 31(6) 745-759. [doi: 10.1016/j.annonc.2020.02.011](#), and Lennon AM, Buchanan AH, Kinde I. et al. Feasibility of blood testing combined with PET-CT to screen for cancer and guide intervention. *Science* 2020 [doi:10.1126/science.abb9601](#).

^[5] White House Briefing Room. "Fact Sheet: President Biden Reignites Cancer Moonshot to End Cancer as We Know It." Feb. 2, 2022. Available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/02/02/fact-sheet-president-biden-reignites-cancer-moonshot-to-end-cancer-as-we-know-it>