

February 25, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

The undersigned organizations, representing people with or at increased risk of cancer, cancer care providers, researchers, and caregivers enthusiastically support President Biden's announcement that he is reigniting the Moonshot to accelerate his commitment to "end cancer as we know it" and build and increase investments in discovery, prevention, and health disparities. We stand ready to work with the President, Vice President and Congress in a bipartisan manner to enact public policies that will achieve this goal.

The Moonshot initiative puts forth a bold commitment to halve the cancer death rate over the next 25 years through improved prevention, early detection, and treatment, as well as committing to better the care experience of cancer patients and their families. Although the United States has made significant progress in reducing the cancer death rate, we continue to face significant barriers to progress.

In 2022, there will be an estimated 1.9 million new cancer cases diagnosed and more than 609,000 cancer deaths in the United States.¹ It is estimated that between 30-50% of all cancer deaths are preventable and attributable to factors like tobacco use, environmental and occupational hazards, alcohol consumption, physical inactivity, an unhealthy diet, and vaccine preventable diseases.^{1,2} The Moonshot includes initiatives to increase human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination rates and invest in remediating environmental hazards, both proven strategies to reduce cancer risk. The undersigned organizations applaud the administration's renewed focus on the prevention of cancer.

Further, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to devastating disruptions in cancer detection,

¹ American Cancer Society. *Cancer Facts & Figures 2022*. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2022.

² World Health Organization (WHO). Preventing cancer. <https://www.who.int/activities/preventing-cancer#:~:text=Between%2030%2D50%25%20of%20all,for%20the%20control%20of%20cancer.>

treatment, and research. As President Biden noted, more than 9.5 million people have missed cancer screenings because of the pandemic and recent studies have found a dramatic decrease in the number of cervical, colorectal, breast, prostate, and lung cancer screenings. A reignited Cancer Moonshot is timely to encourage and support the significant effort required to address those who have missed these important screenings.

Critical research infrastructure was also impacted by the pandemic, including the suspension and delay of many clinical trials. Not only is an injection of funding needed to restart paused research, but new ways of thinking about the research ecosystem are needed including the creation of the Advanced Research Project Agency for Health (ARPA-H) to accelerate cancer research and innovations in treatment. The undersigned organizations applaud these initiatives and urge Congress to fund them as soon as possible.

Our organizations also believe that addressing the burden of cancer requires bold bipartisan action and marshalling the resources of the federal government. We are committed to working with you to take immediate action to accelerate new discoveries, improve access to services patients and their families need, eliminate barriers that create disparities in accessing care, and advance public policy that will change the trajectory of this disease.

The Moonshot initiative's goals of cutting the cancer death rate in half through prevention, early detection, innovation, and addressing inequities is laudable, timely, and achievable, but only with the allocation of adequate funding to support these initiatives. In addition to encouraging funding support for the Cancer Moonshot initiatives, we also endorse the President's plan to host a White House Cancer Moonshot Summit, bringing together agency leadership, patient organizations, biopharmaceutical companies, the research, public health, and health care communities and more to highlight innovation, progress, and new commitments toward ending cancer as we know it.

Our organizations stand ready to support the President's Cancer Cabinet and Congress in the mission to reduce the deadly impact of cancer, advancing equitable care, and improving patient experiences in the diagnosis, treatment, and survival of cancer.

Respectfully,

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
National Comprehensive Cancer Network
AliveAndKickn
Alliance of Dedicated Cancer Centers
American Association for Cancer Research
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Childhood Cancer Organization
American College of Gastroenterology
American College of Radiation Oncology
American Liver Foundation

American Lung Association
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
Anal Cancer Foundation
Are You Dense Advocacy, Inc.
Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO)
Association for Clinical Oncology
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC)
Association of Oncology Social Work
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network
Blue Faery: The Adrienne Liver Cancer Association
Cancer Hope Network
Cancer Support Community
Cancer Support Community Arizona
Cancer Support Community Delaware
Cancer Support Community Indiana
Cancer Support Community Montana
Cancer Support Community North Texas
CancerCare
Children's Cancer Cause
City of Hope
Colorectal Cancer Alliance
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Deadliest Cancers Coalition
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer
ECAN Esophageal Cancer Action Network
Fight Colorectal Cancer
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
Fox Chase Cancer Center
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Friends of Cancer Research
Gilda's Club Kansas City
Gilda's Club Madison Wisconsin
Global Liver Institute
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
Hope for Stomach Cancer
Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah
International Myeloma Foundation
KidneyCAN

Kids v Cancer
Livestrong
LUNGeivity Foundation
Lymphatic Education & Research Network
Lymphedema Advocacy Group
Lymphoma Research Foundation
Malecare Cancer Support
Martin Truex Jr Foundation
Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation
Mayo Clinic
Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF)
Memorial Sloan Kettering
Men's Health Network
Metastatic Breast Cancer Network
METAvivor
Moffitt Cancer Center
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Brain Tumor Society
National Cancer Registrars Association
National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention
National LGBT Cancer Project
National Marrow Donor Program/Be The Match
National Pancreas Foundation
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Oncology Nursing Society
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN)
Patient Services, Inc.
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Project Sleep
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center
Seattle Cancer Care Alliance
St. Baldrick's Foundation
Susan G. Komen
The American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital and Solove
Research Institute
The Skin Cancer Foundation
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Triage Cancer
USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

ZERO - The End of Prostate Cancer

CC: President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Vice-President Kamala D. Harris