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May 1, 2019

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brendan Boyle
United States House of Representatives
1133 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
United States House of Representatives
1722 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Rubio, Feinstein and Representatives Boyle and Fitzpatrick:

The undersigned organizations are writing to express strong support for S.1107 and H.R.2222, the Women and Lung Cancer Research and Preventive Services Act of 2019. We commend your leadership, as well as the leadership of the original co-sponsors: Senators Capito and Manchin and Representatives Bonamici, Dingell and Rutherford in introducing bipartisan and bicameral legislation to advance research into women and lung cancer specifically and advance the understanding of lung cancer pathology generally. Such research is urgently needed.

A study by the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society published in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) on May 24, 2018, indicated that the incidence rates of lung cancer among White and Hispanic women born after 1965 are now higher than among their male counterparts, a reversal not correlated to changes in their smoking rates. The lung cancer incidence rates among young African American and Asian women drew closer but do not yet exceed those of their male counterparts, the NCI-ACS study concluded by calling for more research into this disturbing precedent.

Overall, Lung cancer kills more women than any other cancer in the United States—nearly 181 women die each day, one every eight minutes. At this rate, it is estimated that there will be a total of 66,020 deaths from lung cancer in 2019. This is almost as much as the combined

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total of estimated deaths from breast cancer (41,760), ovarian cancer (13,980), cervical cancer (4,250), uterine cancer (12,160) and other gynecologic cancers. Yet lung cancer is rarely discussed with little known about the disease. It is the least funded cancer in terms of research dollars per death of all the major cancers, and one of the diseases where patients are routinely blamed as responsible for their condition, while lung cancer in never-smokers is the sixth leading cause of all cancer deaths.

The Women and Lung Cancer Research and Preventive Services Act of 2019 would require an interagency review to evaluate and identify opportunities for the acceleration of research on women and lung cancer, increase greater access to preventive services, and develop strategic public awareness and education campaigns as possible solutions to decrease the number of those affected by lung cancer.

Our organizations appreciate the opportunity to support and work with you on next steps to ensure the passage of this legislation. As Congress continues its work this session, we hope you will have the opportunity to add the bill to any non-controversial legislation that is “moving” or has traction to pass end of this year.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the need for research specific to the anomalies in lung cancer among women and for sharing our mission of transforming survivorship by saving, extending and improving the lives of those vulnerable, at risk and diagnosed with lung cancer.

Questions may be directed to Elridge Proctor, Senior Director of Government Affairs & Public Policy at GO₂Foundation for Lung Cancer, formerly Lung Cancer Alliance at 202-742-1427 or Eproctor@go2foundation.org.

Sincerely,

CancerCare
Free ME from Lung Cancer
Friends of Cancer Research
Georgia Center for Oncology Research & Education (Georgia CORE)

GO₂Foundation for Lung Cancer (formerly Lung Cancer Alliance and the Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation)
Kidney Cancer Coalition
LiveLung (Dusty Joy Foundation)
LUNgevity Foundation
Mesothelioma Applied Research
Motion Picture & Television Fund (MPTF)
Mountain Foundation for Education & Research in Lung Cancer
National Cancer Registrars Association
National Patient Advocate Foundation
North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR)
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Prevent Cancer Foundation
ResolutionCare Network
ROS1ders

Enclosure:

cc: Senator Shelley Moore Capito
cc: Senator Joe Manchin
cc: Representative Suzanne Bonamici
cc: Representative Debbie Dingell
cc: Representative John Rutherford

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