

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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>1,2</sup> 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,

---

<sup>1</sup> American Cancer Society. *Cancer Facts & Figures 2022*. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2022.

<sup>2</sup> 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