September 12, 2023

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| The Honorable Marco Rubio  United States Senate  284 Russell 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 Dianne Feinstein  United States Senate  331 Hart Senate Office Building  Washington, DC 20510 | 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.2245](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/2245?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22women%22%2C%22and%22%2C%22lung%22%2C%22cancer%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=2) and

[H.R.4534](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/4534?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22women%22%2C%22and%22%2C%22lung%22%2C%22cancer%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=1), the Women and Lung Cancer Research and Preventive Services Act of 2023. We commend your leadership, as well as the leadership of the original co-sponsors: Senators Shelley Capito, Joe Manchin, Tina Smith, Richard Blumenthal, Alex Padilla and Mark Kelly in introducing bipartisan and bicameral legislation to advance research into women and lung cancer specifically to advance the understanding of lung cancer pathology generally. Such research is urgently needed!

Lung cancer kills more women than any other cancer in the United States. It is now estimated that every day 164 women die from the disease, one every 8.8 minutes. An estimated 238,340 new cases of lung cancer are expected and an estimated 127,070 lives will be lost to the disease this year, alone. Yet lung cancer is rarely discussed with so much unknown 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 people who never-smoked is the sixth leading cause of all cancer deaths.

According to a new report released by Women’s Health Access Matters (WHAM), which commissioned the RAND Corporation to study the impact of the societal and economic impact of lung cancer on women, only 15 percent of lung cancer research is allocated to projects focused specifically on women. The study found if we invest $40 million in lung cancer research focused on women, we get $611 million in returns to our economy. The [WHAM Report](https://thewhamreport.org/report/lung/) concludes that if we invest in research in lung cancer in women, we improve quality of life, reduce healthcare costs, and add millions back in labor productivity and save 22,700 years of life.

The Women and Lung Cancer Research and Preventive Services Act of 2023 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. We know that HHS has provided technical assistance to the bill and the CBO has scored the bill at no cost. As Congress continues its work the 118th sessions, we hope you will have the opportunity to add the bill to any non-controversial legislation that is “moving” or has traction to pass this Congress.

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

With any questions or comments, please contact, Elridge Proctor ([eproctor@go2.org](mailto:eproctor@go2.org)), Senior Director, Government Affairs at GO2 for Lung Cancer.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Women’s Health & Prevention

American Association of Nurse Practitioners

American Medical Women’s Association

American Nurses Association

Black Women’s Health Imperative

Cancer Support Community

Friends of Cancer Research

GO2 for Lung Cancer

Hadassah, The Women’s Zionist Organization of America

Healthy Women

International Association of the Study of Lung Cancer

International Early Lung Cancer Action Program

Katz Institute for Women’s Health at Northwell Health

Magee Women’s Research Institute

Mary Horrigan Connors Center for Women’s Health and Gender Biology, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School

National Hispanic Medical Association

National Association of Hispanic Nurses

National Patient Advocate Foundation

Oncology Nursing Society

Prevent Cancer Foundation

Society for Women’s Health Research

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Women’s Health Access Matters