



June 26, 2024

The Honorable Jason Smith  
Chairman  
U.S. House Committee on Ways & Means  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Ranking Member  
U.S House Committee on Ways & Means  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Smith, Ranking Member Neal, and Members of the Committee,

For more than 40 years, Cancer Support Community has been a relentless ally for anyone who is striving to manage the realities of a cancer diagnosis. It is our mission to uplift and strengthen people impacted by cancer by providing support, fostering compassionate communities, and breaking down barriers to care.

The Nancy Sewell Gardner Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act (H.R. 2407) will ensure advanced cancer screenings are readily available to America's seniors – who are among those most at risk of developing cancer. We are proud to support this legislation and urge the committee to unanimously advance this bill as amended today.

The successful future of cancer care starts with early detection. New and emerging technologies hold the promise to dramatically expand our ability to detect, diagnose, and treat cancers at their earliest stages. These include multi-cancer early detection (MCED) blood tests, which analyze a patient's DNA to detect signals of dozens of different cancers – sometimes before they even start to show symptoms. MCED tests will be a game changer for how doctors detect, diagnose, and treat cancer.

By helping patients and their doctors find more cancers earlier, these tests will enable earlier and more effective treatment. Currently, screening tests are available and recommended for only five cancers—colorectal, cervical, breast, high-risk lung, and prostate. Yet, approximately seven out of every ten cancer deaths are from cancers that have lacked early detection screenings, until now. Since they only require a blood draw, these tests can be administered in more clinical settings than more invasive tests such as colonoscopies or mammograms, which is of particular note for patients who live in rural or underserved communities.

But innovations like MCED tests mean little if those most at risk aren't able to access, afford, and benefit from them. H.R. 2407 enables the Medicare program to cover these tests from the day they're approved by the FDA, much like Congress has done in the past for mammography and colonoscopies.

We thank you for your consideration of this vital legislation today and urge you to pass the amended bill out of the committee and, ultimately, into law, this year. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at [dsekoni@cancersupportcommunity.org](mailto:dsekoni@cancersupportcommunity.org) or (202) 659-9707.

Sincerely,

Daneen G. Sekoni, MHSA  
Vice President, Policy & Advocacy