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May 21, 2021

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.699 and H.R.1800, the Women and Lung Cancer Research and Preventive Services Act of 2021. We commend your leadership, as well as the leadership of the original co-sponsors: Senators Capito and Manchin and Representatives Bonamici and Dingell in introducing bipartisan and bicameral legislation to advance research into women and lung cancer specifically and to advance the understanding of lung cancer pathology generally. Such research is urgently needed.

Two years ago, a significant study by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the American Cancer Society (ACS) 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. This NCI-ACS study concluded by calling for more research into this disturbing precedent.

A recent article in [STAT](#) reports that a growing share of lung cancer cases is turning up in an unexpected population—individuals who never smoked—adding to the growing pressure to understand how never-smokers' lung cancer differs from those of people with a smoking history.

We simply need more research to better understand and treat lung cancer today.

As you know, the [overall statistics](#) indicate that lung cancer kills more women than any other cancer in the United States—an estimated 171 women die each day, one every eight minutes. At this rate, it is estimated that there will be a total of 62,470 deaths from lung cancer in 2021. This is almost as much as the combined total of estimated deaths from breast cancer (43,600), ovarian cancer (13,770),

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cervical cancer (4,290), uterine cancer (12,940) or 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 (only \$3,166 per death in research funding from the National Institutes of Health) and one of the diseases where patients are routinely blamed as responsible for their condition.

The Women and Lung Cancer Research and Preventive Services Act of 2021 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.

Please direct questions to Elridge Proctor, Senior Director of Government Affairs at GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer, at 202-669-5547 or Eproctor@go2foundation.org.

Sincerely,

GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer
ALK POSITIVE, Inc.
Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance for Patient Access
Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO)
Cancer and Careers
Cancer Support Community
Caring Ambassadors Program, Inc.
Citizens for Radioactive Radon Reduction
Dusty Joy Foundation (LiveLung)
EGFR Resisters
Foundation for Education & Research in Lung Cancer
Free ME from Lung Cancer
Hadassah, The Women’s Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
HealthyWomen
KidneyCAN
Livestrong

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Lung Cancer Action Network (LungCAN)
Lung Cancer Initiative
Lung Cancer Research Foundation
LUNGevity Foundation
MET Crusaders
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Women's Political Caucus
The RET Renegades
Triage Cancer

Enclosure:

cc: Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP)
cc: House Committee on Energy & Commerce/Subcommittee on Health
cc: Senator Shelley Moore Capito
cc: Senator Joe Manchin
cc: Representative Suzanne Bonamici
cc: Representative Debbie Dingell