

September 12, 2023

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](#) and [H.R.4534](#), 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](#) 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), 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 for 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