



March 3, 2021

The Honorable Kathy Castor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Room 2052, Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Castor,

On behalf of the Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO), I write to thank you for your leadership in introducing the PREVENT HPV Cancers Act of 2021 and to convey SGO's strong support for this important legislation.

As you know, human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States and thought to be the cause of approximately 90% of all cervical cancers, in addition to playing a role in other genital tract cancers.

Despite it being a highly treatable disease, death rates from cervical cancer have barely changed over the last 40 years, while mortality rates for other cancers have been decreasing. A patient that is diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer often reflects a patient who did not have access to, or failed to receive, adequate screening for cervical cancer.

Racial and socioeconomic disparities exist in cervical cancer screening, incidence, and mortality. Cervical cancer has a disproportionate impact on low-income women and women of color. Hispanic women are most likely to get cervical cancer, followed by African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan natives, and Whites. Hispanic women are 60% more likely to be diagnosed with and 30% more likely to die from cervical cancer than white women.

SGO is excited that The PREVENT HPV Cancers Act provides new resources to establish an HPV vaccine public awareness campaign, enhance research on HPV-associated cancers at the National Cancer Institute, and strengthen the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, with a goal to reduce the rate of mortality from breast and cervical cancer in the nation by 2030. We believe initiatives such as these can help to reduce the racial and socioeconomic disparities of cervical cancer and other HPV cancers.

Once again, thank you for your sponsorship of the PREVENT HPV Cancers Act of 2021 and for your leadership on this important issue. The SGO looks forward to working with you and your staff on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

David E. Cohn, MD, MBA  
President