



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

TERRI A. SEWELL
ALABAMA, 7TH DISTRICT

December 12, 2025

Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone,

As a champion of H.R. 842, the Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi Cancer Early Detection Screening Act, I am delighted to come before the Energy and Commerce Committee to advocate for the passage of this bill in the 119th Congress. Cancer knows no political party. The heart of this legislation is about changing the status quo and increasing access to cancer screening for our seniors.

The final passage of this bill is of the utmost importance for every American family, including our closet colleagues. A late-stage diagnosed cancer stole our nation's champion and my dear friend, John Lewis. Cancer diagnosed in late stage stole Speaker Mike Johnson's 63 year old father from him just 3 days before he was sworn in. Just recently, we have lost four of our colleagues—Representatives Sheila Jackson Lee, Sylvester Turner, Raul Grijalva, and Gerry Connolly—all from cancer. Cancer has also devastated my family. A late stage diagnosed pancreatic cancer stole my mother—the namesake for this important legislation, Ms. Nancy Gardner Sewell. Everyone within this body, and so many of our constituents, share very similar stories.

I want to thank our colleague Rep. Jodey Arrington for being a co-champion of this bill and for surprising me by naming the bill after my mother. I would also like to thank our Energy and Commerce colleagues—Representatives Richard Hudson, Raul Ruiz, Robin Kelly, and Mariannette Miller-Meeks—for their leadership with this bill. This bipartisan partnership between both committees truly shows how cancer knows no party.

My Mom represents just one of the millions of people who have lost their battle to cancer, and my story of loss and grief is a story shared by millions of families who have had to endure such a horrible loss. As Members of Congress, it is our duty to do whatever we can to rid this nation of the scourge of cancer by giving coverage and access to the most vulnerable in our society. Therefore, I hope you will join me in supporting H.R. 842 - the Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act.

I am overwhelmed by the support this bill has earned, including the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the Prevent Cancer Foundation, the National Minority Quality Forum, The Association of Community Cancer Centers, Cancer Support Community, Fight Colorectal Cancer, Go2 for Lung Cancer, The National Grange, the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance, and **more than 500** advocacy organizations across the country, which include more than a dozen organizations in my home state of Alabama!

Mr. Chairman, I have included a copy of this letter of support from the Prevent Cancer Foundation listing more than 500 endorsing organizations of this legislation for the record.



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Likewise, the Nancy Gardner Sewell bill has received overwhelming bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress! **336** of our colleagues in the House of Representatives, and **67** in the Senate have signed on to cosponsor this legislation - making it the most cosponsored bill in the 119th Congress! On September 17th, the bill received unanimous passage in the Ways and Means Committee with a vote of 43 to 0.

Like so many Americans, my mother received her diagnosis of pancreatic cancer after the cancer had already spread, making it harder to treat. New cancer screening tools have the potential to detect the cancer before it is too late. Moreover, multi-cancer early detection tests can screen for dozens of cancers – such as pancreatic cancer – for which we have not previously been able to screen. This means we can catch more cancers in their earlier stages, giving patients their best chance at beating the disease.

This year, more than 600,000 Americans will die from cancer. This number could easily be reduced with early detection tools! Sixty-six is the median age for receiving a cancer diagnosis in the United States. This legislation serves to provide the most vulnerable amongst us with the opportunity to fight cancer earlier when it is less deadly. When there are actions we can take to reduce the suffering associated with cancer, it is our responsibility to do so.

Congress has the power to ensure that the most vulnerable have access to the most effective tools to help combat the disease. Medicare laws do not currently provide for timely coverage of these technologies. It is our job to proactively ensure accessibility for those who need it most.

We must step in and create a path for coverage and access for early detection tests. That is exactly what this bill does. Like similar legislation we have passed that gave coverage and access for mammography and colorectal screening access, the Nancy Gardner Sewell bill will create a coverage pathway for multi cancer early detection screenings. This legislation will drive value in Medicare by reducing the significant costs attributed to advanced cancer care, and more importantly, it will save lives.

I am so thankful for the support this bill has received, both in Congress and among the cancer community, but our work is not done until this bill becomes law. Millions of Americans are counting on us. The Energy and Commerce Committee should immediately reschedule the healthcare markup previously scheduled in October and vote H.R. 842 out of committee. The Nancy Gardner Sewell bill must be signed into law during the 119th Congress to ensure access to early detection cancer tools!

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to working with each of you to as we continue the fight against cancer. I yield back.