



July 29, 2020

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman
Energy & Commerce Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Energy & Commerce Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 4078, the EARLY Act Reauthorization of 2019

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write to thank you for holding a hearing to consider legislation to reauthorize and increase funding for the Breast Cancer Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young (EARLY) Act. This bill will allow for the continuation of vital work to educate young women and certain women at higher risk of breast cancer about their breast health.

As you know, one in eight women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer over their lifetime, and a total of 276,480 new cases of breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in American women in 2020 alone. Oncology nurses are the health professionals involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery, and managing the associated side effects cancer patients may experience. Every day, we see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer and their families face throughout their diagnosis and treatment.

ONS is a professional organization of over 39,000 registered nurses and other health care providers dedicated to excellence in patient care, education, research, and administration in oncology nursing. ONS members are a diverse group of professionals who represent a variety of professional roles, practice settings, and subspecialty practice areas. Oncology nurses are leaders in the health care arena, committed to continuous learning and leading the transformation of cancer care by advocating for high-quality care for people with cancer.

The EARLY Act has been a critical tool in empowering women with access to breast cancer information and resources that are crucial throughout their lifetimes. ONS and its members very much appreciate the Energy and Commerce Committee's consideration of legislation to reauthorize key public health programs, including the EARLY Act, and urge you to advance H.R. 4078 as soon as possible.

ONS stands ready to work with you and your staff to reduce and prevent suffering from cancer. We would be happy to discuss ways in which ONS may be of assistance in this endeavor and would encourage you to contact Alec Stone, Director of Public Affairs, at astone@ons.org. We look forward to engaging in an ongoing dialogue to address issues of importance to our cancer patients and ways in which we can promote public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Houlihan".

Nancy Houlihan, MA, RN, AOCN
President