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October 18, 2021

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Chair
Health Subcommittee
Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Ranking Member
Health Subcommittee
Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Statement by the GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer, submitted for the record to the House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health Committee.

Dear Chairwoman Eshoo and Ranking Member Guthrie:

My name is Laurie Fenton Ambrose, President & CEO of GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer, which is a merger between Lung Cancer Alliance (LCA) and the Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation (ALCF). Representing over 30 years of experience, GO2 Foundation has the mission of transforming survivorship by saving, extending, and improving the lives of those vulnerable, at risk, and diagnosed with lung cancer. We work to achieve our mission by empowering and supporting our community. We are working on advancing patient-centric research, expanding access to high quality screening and treatment through our nearly 800 network of [Screening Centers of Excellence \(SCOE\)](#) and advocating for lung cancer support as a national public health priority by educating policy makers on the need for comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate approach to lung cancer.

Today, I am pleased to provide this written testimony to thank you for your leadership and in support of HR 3749, [Katherine's Law for Lung Cancer Early Detection and Survival Act of 2021](#).

Working directly with former Congressman Rick Nolan, Congressman Brendan Boyle, Senator Tina Smith and our scientific leadership, we contributed to the recent language in Katherine's Law to help enact legislation that would raise the necessary support to develop better early detection for younger women at risk for lung cancer. We know all too well that early detection can save lives and lead to effective long term treatment options. This legislation honors the memory of Katherine Benson, Congressman Rick Nolan's daughter, who passed from the disease in 2020, shortly after attending our annual advocacy summit, where she advocated to Congress for herself and the countless other lives lost to lung cancer.

As you know from meeting with our constituents [the fact](#) is lung cancer kills more women than any other cancer in the United States—an estimated 171 women die each day, one every eight minutes. Yet lung cancer is rarely discussed with little known about the disease and one of the diseases where patients are routinely blamed as responsible for their condition.

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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. 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!

For these reasons, we have focused for years on advancing the legislation known as, the Women and Lung Cancer Research and Preventive Services Act of 2021 (HR 1800), which calls for a study to (1) gain a better understanding about why lung cancer behaves differently in women and (2) improve access to early detection and preventive services. The legislation also calls for a public awareness and education campaign that would help draw a brighter light on this critical women's health imperative. We believe that the Women and Lung Cancer Research and Preventive Services Act is complimentary to Katherine's Law as it embodies this long sought goal of harmonizing the years of bi-partisan bi-cameral support for devising a better federal plan of action to address lung cancer's impact on younger women and never smokers.

In strong support of Katherine's Law, we urge the committee to pass the bill and I respectfully request that this testimony be included in the record to honor our mothers, sisters, aunts, daughters, and grandmothers who have fearlessly emerged from the shadows to challenge stigma, share their stories, and demand change.

It is also essential that critical stakeholders who specializes in lung cancer should be involved at the earliest outset in the implementation of this act and the committee should help facilitate these conversations and hold the agency accountable to making progress on lung cancer through the bill report language.

Thank you for your deepest consideration and most especially for your work on advancing our shared mission of improving survivorship in lung cancer. We look forward to working with your staff to implement this legislation. Please contact, Elridge Proctor, Senior Director, Government Affairs at 202-669-5547 or email: eproctor@go2foundation.org.

Sincerely,



Laurie Fenton Ambrose
Co-Founder, President & CEO
G02 Foundation for Lung Cancer