



February 4, 2016

The Honorable Steve Israel
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Israel:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write to thank you for introducing H.Res. 606, expressing support for the designation of February 4, 2016 as National Cancer Prevention Day.

Cancer is one of the nation's leading causes of death. Each year in the United States, approximately 1.66 million people are diagnosed with cancer, another 589,430 die from the disease, and nearly 14.5 million Americans count themselves among the growing community of cancer survivors. Oncology nurses are the health professionals involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and managing the associated side effects cancer patients may experience. Every day, oncology nurses see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment.

The risk of developing most types of cancer can be reduced by changes in a person's lifestyle, and early diagnosis and screening can improve a patient's chances for successful treatment. This resolution would help increase awareness of cancer risks and prevention, and would help promote the early detection of this deadly disease.

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. The growing demand for cancer care, from prevention to palliative care, requires oncology nurses to play a pivotal and increasingly important role in delivering high quality, safe, effective and efficient health care to people affected by, or at risk for, cancer.

Please know that we very much appreciate your longtime leadership on cancer issues of importance to ONS and the patients we serve. We stand ready to work with you and your staff to reduce and prevent suffering from cancer, and are committed to maximizing the potential that nurses, the largest group of health care professionals, have in reducing the incidence of 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, MA, MPA, ONS Director of Health Policy, at astone@ons.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Margaret Barton-Burke". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Margaret Barton-Burke, PhD, RN, FAAN
President, Oncology Nursing Society