



December 1, 2016

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Passage of H.R. 34, 21st Century Cures Act

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write to thank you for your vote in support of passage for the 21st Century Cures Act. This critical legislation has the potential to greatly improve the discovery, development and delivery of cancer treatments in this country, and will support continued innovation in our health care system.

We are especially pleased that 21st Century Cures includes a number of high priorities for oncology nurses, such as increased funding for the National Institutes of Health, support for precision medicine, and transparency requirements for expanded access programs. 21st Century Cures will also authorize funding of the Cancer Moonshot Initiative. ONS has been centrally involved in this Initiative through membership on the National Cancer Advisory Board's Blue Ribbon Panel, participation on the panel's working groups, and involvement in a roundtable panel of oncology experts moderated by Vice President Biden.

Cancer is one of the nation's leading causes of death. Each year in the United States, approximately 1.6 million people are diagnosed with cancer, and another 595,000 die from this terrible disease. 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, we 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. Through the investment in new resources for medical research and innovation, the 21st Century Cures Act will lead to better treatment and quality of life for patients across the country, particularly patients with a diagnosis of cancer.

ONS is a professional organization of over 39,000 registered nurses and other healthcare 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 roles, practice settings, and subspecialty practice areas.

ONS sincerely thanks you for your support in the passage of this critical legislation. We would encourage you to contact Alec Stone, MA, MPA, ONS Director of Health Policy, at astone@ons.org to discuss ways in which ONS may be of assistance in addressing issues of importance to cancer patients and ways in which we can promote public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan M. Schneider".

Susan Schneider, PhD, RN, AOCN®, FAAN
President
Oncology Nursing Society