



September 22, 2016

The Honorable Steve Israel
2457 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for H.R.6084, the “Improving Cancer Treatment Education Act of 2016”

Dear Representative Israel:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write to thank you for re-introducing ONS’ signature legislation, the “Improving Cancer Treatment Education Act” (H.R. 6084).

This important legislation requests one-hour reimbursement through Medicare for symptom management education provided by an oncology nurse. The bill recognizes that patients with cancer benefit from an educational session in advance of treatment, which teaches them how to manage the adverse effects of cancer treatment, reduce its risks, and maximize their well-being as survivors.

Comprehensive patient with cancer treatment education services are defined as the provision of a one-hour patient treatment education session, delivered by an RN, that educates the patient and the patient’s caregiver(s) about all aspects of the care to be provided, informs the patient regarding any potential symptoms, side effects, or adverse events, explains when the healthcare provider should be contacted, and reviews ways in which side effects and adverse events can be minimized and health and well-being maximized. The legislation not only helps patients to manage their side effects, but it reduces adverse events and the need for urgent or inpatient care.

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 roles, practice settings, and subspecialties.

Please know that ONS and its members very much appreciate your longtime leadership on cancer care issues. 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 "Susan M. Schneider". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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