



August 19, 2016

The Honorable John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Support for S. 3211, Cancer Care Payment Reform Act of 2016**

Dear Senator Cornyn:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write in support of S. 3211, the Cancer Care Payment Reform Act of 2016. This legislation would establish a national Oncology Medical Home Demonstration Project under the Medicare program in order to enhance the quality of cancer care and to improve cost efficiency.

As you know, 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, another 595,000 die from this terrible disease, and more than 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, 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.

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.

The Cancer Care Payment Reform Act would help drive coordinated, high quality oncology care that results in lower overall costs to cancer patients and the health care system, and we very much appreciate your leadership on the issue of meaningful oncology payment reform. 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](mailto:astone@ons.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan M. Schneider".

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