

October 6, 2022

The Honorable Bobby Rush
United States House of Representatives
2188 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1301

The Honorable Larry Buschon, M.D.
United States House of Representatives
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1301

Dear Representative Rush and Representative Buschon,

The undersigned organizations, representing prostate cancer patients, survivors, caregivers, health care providers, researchers, and others in the prostate cancer community, write to express our support for H.R. 1176, the Prostate Specific Antigen Screening for High-risk Insured Men Act (PSA for HIM Act).

The PSA for HIM Act would waive deductibles, copayments, and coinsurances for prostate cancer screenings for those with a family history of prostate cancer or who are African-American. The disproportionate impact of prostate cancer on African-American men is due primarily to differences in access to testing and care and the removal of cost barriers to screening is a first step to ensuring that men are diagnosed with prostate cancer at its most treatable stage and eliminating the excess mortality that affects African-American men. The PSA Screening for HIM Act is a critical step towards ensuring that no one forgoes potentially lifesaving screening services due to cost.

- Prostate cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths among men in the United States and a significant healthcare problem due to its high incidence. Although one in eight men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime, the odds increase to one in six if they are Black, and one in three if they have a family history. For 2022, the American Cancer Society projects 268,490 new cases of prostate cancer in the United States.¹
- The incidence of prostate cancer is almost 80 percent higher in Black men, who have a two-fold higher rate of prostate cancer mortality relative to men of other races. Black men are diagnosed with more aggressive disease, at younger ages, and at higher incidence compared to white men in settings of equal access to treatment.
- This racial disparity in mortality is currently the worst among all cancers in the United States; and to eliminate disparities in prostate cancer we must eliminate the barriers for screening to maximize the early detection of cancer when it is at its most treatable and least lethal stage.
- The clinical value of prostate cancer screening has been scientifically validated and endorsed by the American Urological Association, American Cancer Society, National Comprehensive Cancer Network, American Society of Clinical Oncology, and American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine. It is a necessary step to diagnose prostate cancer as part of a larger conversation between patient and provider about prostate cancer risk.

¹ Cancer Facts & Figures 2022, American Cancer Society

- Late-stage prostate cancers place an increased economic burden on the health care system, including lost worker productivity and increased financial burdens for patients and their caregivers.
- While existing state laws may require health insurance policies to provide coverage for the screening and diagnosis of prostate cancer, the cost of these services may deter or prevent high-risk and underserved populations from seeking care and detecting early-stage disease.

Thank you, and please consider this our endorsement of H.R. 1176, a bill that will bring us one step closer to eliminating disparities in prostate cancer and saving lives.

Respectfully,

Active Surveillance Patients International
American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network
American Urological Association
Cancer & Careers
Cancer ABC's
Cancer Support Community
CancerCare
Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE)
Malecare
Patient Empowerment Network
Prostate Cancer Foundation
Prostate Cancer International
Prostate Cancer Research Institute
Prostate Conditions Education Council
Prostate Health Education Network
Seattle Children's Foundation
Sexual Medicine Society of North America
Society for Basic Urologic Research
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Society of Urologic Oncology
Society of Women in Urology
Stand Up To Cancer
Triage Cancer
Urology Care Foundation
Veterans Prostate Cancer Awareness Inc.
ZERO – The End of Prostate Cancer