



November 1, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write today as bipartisan Members of Congress dedicated to ensuring the United States leads the world in cancer care. We applaud you for making finding a cure for cancer a priority of your Administration, and write to you to ask you to reconsider the way the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) treats innovative cancer treatments like proton beam therapy (PBT).

Harnessing innovation is critical to improving cancer care, and proton beam therapy is one of the most advanced radiation modalities. We appreciate that CMS has worked to develop a value-based model for Radiation Oncology (RO APM), however, that payment model dramatically cuts reimbursement for proton beam therapy, a low-volume but impactful modality. Proton beam therapy requires a greater investment to administer than other modalities, a fact that isn't recognized by the reimbursement reduction proposed in the RO APM. We ask you to direct the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) to exclude proton therapy from the RO Model, just as brachytherapy was excluded, to prevent unintended consequences on beneficiaries' access to high value innovative cancer treatments.

Additionally, we are concerned about implementing the RO APM while hospitals are still reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic. The RO APM is scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2022, after Congress previously recommended a delay to account for the strain on hospitals caused by the pandemic. We urge you to consider further delaying implementation of the RO model, given the model's complexity, coupled with the continuing challenges of the pandemic.

It had been our priority in Congress to catalyze research, discover new therapies and treatments, and improve overall quality of life for cancer survivors through enhanced monitoring and treatment systems. If finalized in its current form, we are concerned that the RO APM could constrain innovation, inhibit access to cutting-edge cancer therapies, and amplify inequities in cancer care.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



Stephanie Bice
Member of Congress



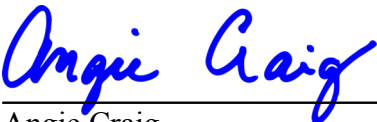
Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



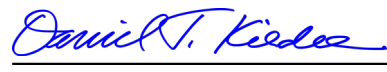
Angie Craig
Member of Congress



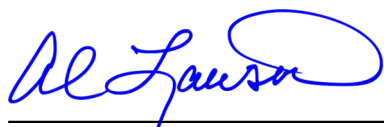
Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Mike Johnson
Member of Congress



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Al Lawson, Jr.
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
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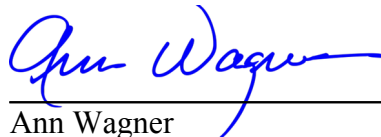
Terri A. Sewell
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress