

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 4, 2014

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Marilyn Tavenner
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Madam Secretary and Administrator Tavenner:

The undersigned members of Congress are writing to urge expeditious completion of a Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD) for low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) scans in patients at high-risk of developing lung cancer. We feel strongly that Medicare patients should have access to evidence-based, appropriate medical imaging procedures and respectfully request that you provide Congress with written correspondence updating the status of the NCD process as it moves forward.

Since lung cancer is often first identified in an advanced stage, only about 15 percent of lung cancer patients live five years or more following an initial diagnosis of the disease. More than 156,000 patients die from lung cancer each year in the United States which is greater than the mortality rates of breast, prostate, and colon cancer combined.

Thankfully, advances in science and technology are making early lung cancer screening more effective, giving patients a greater chance at survival. Providing patients at high-risk of developing lung cancer with annual low-dose CT scans has enabled radiologists and thoracic surgeons to accurately diagnose and treat early stage lung cancer and, subsequently, save more lives. For example, the National Lung Screening Trial (NLST), a randomized control trial of more than 53,000 high-risk patients between the ages of 55 and 74 showed that individuals receiving annual CT screens had a 20 percent lower lung cancer mortality rate in comparison to those patients screened using standard radiography. Preliminary data from the NLST also demonstrate that annual low-dose CT scans are more cost effective than other accepted cancer screening interventions, including breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screenings.

In December 2013 the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommended asymptomatic patients between the ages 55 and 80 who are current smokers with at least 30 pack years of smoking history or former smokers who ceased tobacco use within the last 15 years receive annual low-dose CT scans.

While private insurance is mandated to cover the USPSTF recommendations for preventative services, the same mandate does not apply to Medicare. As such, it is unknown whether patients 65 and older will have equal access to this same benefit. Following the Task Force's revised higher grade on CT Lung Cancer Screening, Medicare initiated an NCD process to assess whether they too will fully cover LDCT as an annual screening exam in high risk

patients. Under the NCD process, Medicare will solicit stakeholder feedback, review published scientific evidence on the issue, convene a formal Medicare Evidence Development and Coverage Advisory Committee (MEDCAC) hearing on April 30, 2014, and then make a preliminary final decision around November 2014. CMS is required to issue a final decision regarding low-dose CT lung cancer screening by February 8, 2015, however, it can take several (6+) months to place instructions to Medicare contractors before patients 65 and older actually start being able to receive the procedure.

The undersigned members of Congress request regular written updates to ensure that the NCD process moves expeditiously. Americans pay into Medicare throughout their working lives and deserve to have access to potentially life-saving evidence-based screenings that can prevent further health costs down the road. We look forward to your response.

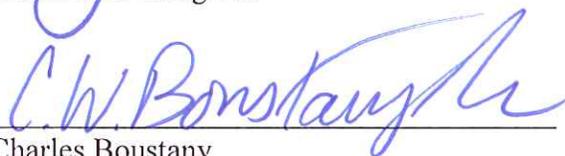
Sincerely,



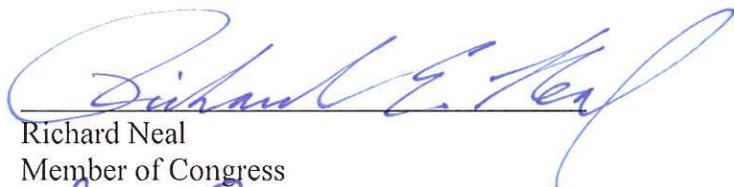
Jim Renacci
Member of Congress



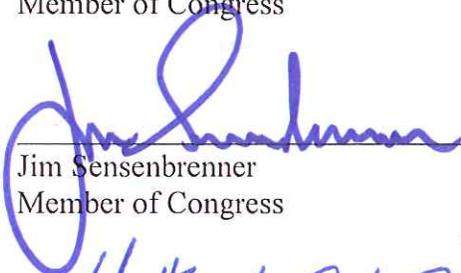
John Barrow
Member of Congress



Charles Boustany
Member of Congress



Richard Neal
Member of Congress



Jim Sensenbrenner
Member of Congress



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

CPA

Chris Gibson
Member of Congress

Aaron Schock

Aaron Schock
Member of Congress

Michael M. Honda

Mike Honda
Member of Congress

Raul M. Grijalva

Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress

Gene Green

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter

Carol Shea Porter
Member of Congress

Pat Tiberi

Pat Tiberi
Member of Congress

Scott DesJarlais

Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress

Larry Bucshon

Larry Bucshon
Member of Congress

Brett Guthrie

Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress

Gregg Harper

Gregg Harper
Member of Congress

Ami Bera

Ami Bera
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

David Scott

David Scott
Member of Congress

Sam Farr

Sam Farr
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

Bob Latta

Bob Latta
Member of Congress

Charles W. Dent

Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader

Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress

G.K. Butterfield

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs

Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

Joe Barton

Joe Barton
Member of Congress

Ralph M. Hall

Ralph Hall
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

Tim Bishop

Tim Bishop
Member of Congress

Marcia Fudge

Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress

Bill Foster

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema

Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

Frank Wolf

Frank Wolf
Member of Congress

John C. Carney

John Carney
Member of Congress

Todd Young

Todd Young
Member of Congress

Bradley Scott Schneider

Brad Schneider
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan

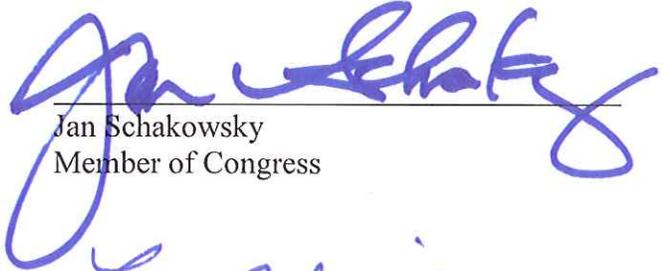
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



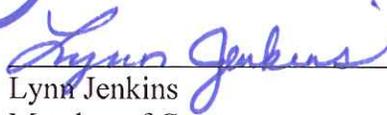
Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Mike Coffman
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



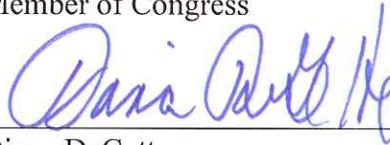
David Cicilline
Member of Congress



Tom Price
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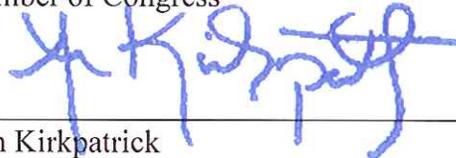
Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress



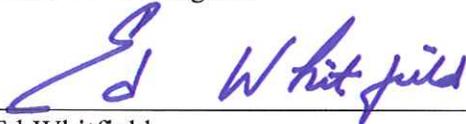
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



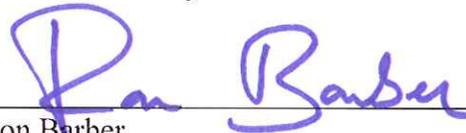
Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress



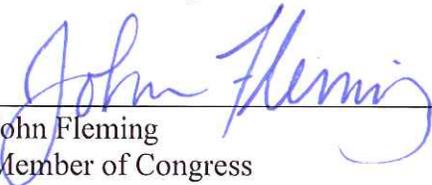
Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Ron Barber
Member of Congress



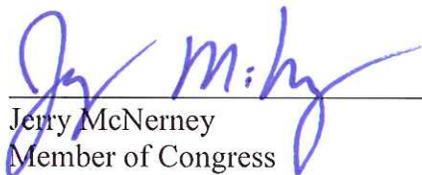
John Fleming
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



Pete Gallego
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



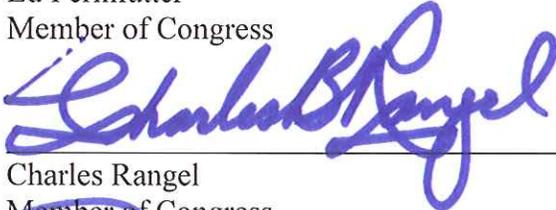
Tim Griffin
Member of Congress



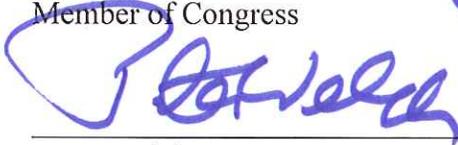
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



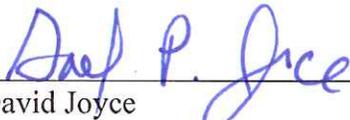
Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Charles Rangel
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



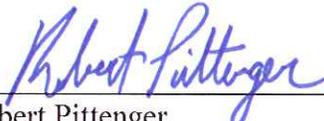
David Joyce
Member of Congress



Diane Black
Member of Congress



Mike Michaud
Member of Congress



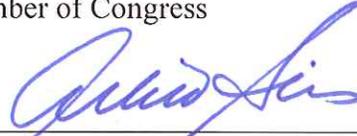
Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress



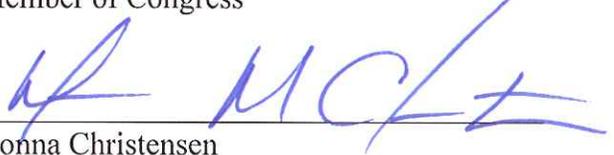
Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



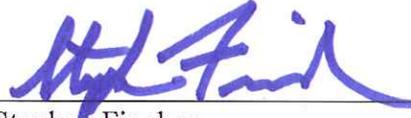
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



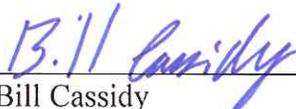
Donna Christensen
Member of Congress



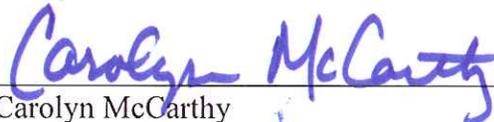
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



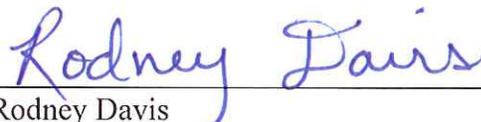
Stephen Fincher
Member of Congress



Bill Cassidy
Member of Congress



Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Lujan

Ben Ray Lujan
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Colleen Hanabusa

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John B Larson

John Larson
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Rick Crawford

Rick Crawford
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Scott Tipton

Scott Tipton
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Morgan Griffith

Morgan Griffith
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Pete Olson

Pete Olson
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Todd Young

Todd Young
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BRIAN Higgins

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster

Ann McLane Kuster
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Jim Matheson

Jim Matheson
Member of Congress

Bill Keating

Bill Keating
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Tom Latham

Tom Latham
Member of Congress

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

Cynthia Lummis

Cynthia Lummis
Member of Congress

Stephen Lynch

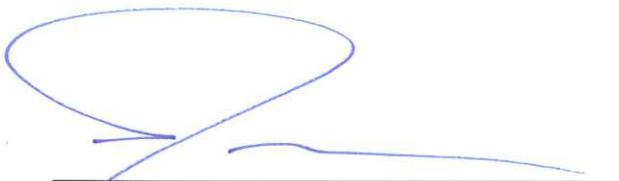
Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress

Andy Harris

Andy Harris, MD
Member of Congress

Marsha Blackburn

Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



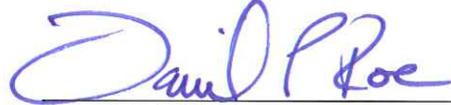
Tom Reed
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



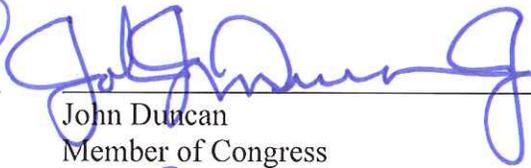
Bill Flores
Member of Congress



David "Phil" Roe
Member of Congress



Sam Johnson
Member of Congress



John Duncan
Member of Congress



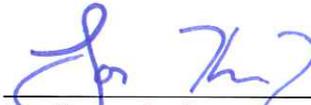
Jim Moran
Member of Congress



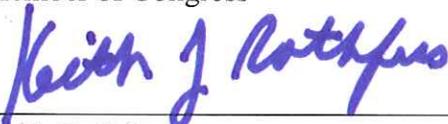
Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



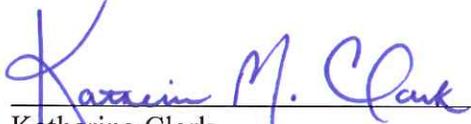
Joe Kennedy, Jr.
Member of Congress



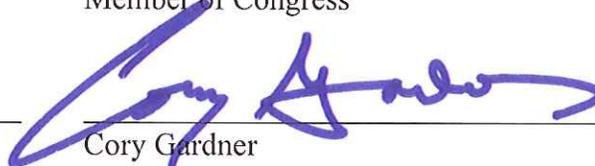
Keith Rothfus
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Cory Gardner
Member of Congress



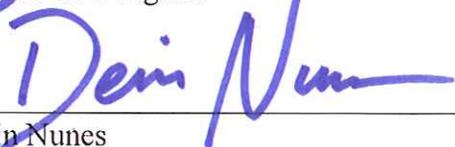
Joe Heck
Member of Congress



Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress



Pat Meehan
Member of Congress



Devin Nunes
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel

Eliot Engel
Member of Congress

Bruce Braley

Bruce Braley
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John F. Tierney

John Tierney
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Dave Loebsack

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

Dina Titus

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

~~Jim Gerlach~~

~~Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress~~

Susan Brooks

Susan Brooks
Member of Congress

Shelley Moore Capito

Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress

Renee J. Ellmers

Renee Ellmers
Member of Congress

Michael Burgess

Michael Burgess
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Gloria Negrete McLeod

Gloria Negrete McLeod
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Michael E. Capuano

Mike Capuano
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Jim McGovern

Jim McGovern
Member of Congress

Lois Capps

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

John A. Yarmuth

John A. Yarmuth
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Jim Cooper

Jim Cooper
Member of Congress