

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 5, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

I am writing to address women's access to early breast cancer detection screening as you continue to work on the Cancer Moonshot Program. As you are no doubt aware, roughly one in eight American women will develop breast cancer in their lifetimes, and incident rates have increased by 0.5% per year.¹ It is the second leading cause of cancer death in American women, with a disproportionate burden on African-American women.² While advancements in early detection, therapeutics, and general awareness have helped us make important strides in defeating breast cancer, there is still much to be done as I expect over 43,000 women to die of breast cancer in 2022.³ Therefore, I urgently request your administration to ensure women have affordable access to multicancer early detection technologies by prioritizing this technology as part of your work with the Cancer Moonshot Program and the Cancer Cabinet.

Breast cancer disparities are evident among women of minority backgrounds. For instance, Black women are 41 percent more likely to die from breast cancer compared to White women.⁴ Hispanic women are 30 percent less likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer than non-Hispanic White women due to barriers in access to breast cancer detection.⁵ For years, women have relied on mammography for early detection, and as the American Cancer Society states, “[g]etting regular screening tests is the most reliable way to find breast cancer early.”⁶ But while mammography is an important tool, it is not perfect. After ten years of screening, most women will experience at least one false-positive test, with 20-30% of breast cancer diagnoses being over diagnosed, costing the health system some \$4 billion per year.⁷

Now, however, there are new and important screening options for women, such as multi-cancer early detection tests (MCEDs). An MCED test that screens “a common cancer signal across more than 50 cancers”, including breast cancer, has been on the U.S. market since 2021.⁸ Unfortunately, bureaucratic entanglements are preventing most women from accessing MCED tests, and I am seeking your help in ensuring more women have access to these promising technologies.

I am passionate about defeating breast cancer and support your leadership on this issue. I hope your

¹ Breast cancer statistics: How common is breast cancer? AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY (2022), <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/breast-cancer/about/how-common-is-breast-cancer.html> (last visited Feb 15, 2022).

² *Id.*

³ Cancer Facts & Figures 2022, AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY (2022), <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/annual-cancer-facts-and-figures/2022/2022-cancer-facts-and-figures.pdf> (last visited Feb 15, 2022).

⁴ <https://www.bcrf.org/blog/black-women-and-breast-cancer-why-disparities-persist-and-how-end-them/>

⁵ <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=4&lvlid=61>

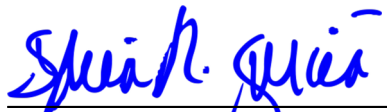
⁶ ACS Breast Cancer Screening Guidelines, AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY (2022), <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/breast-cancer/screening-tests-and-early-detection/american-cancer-society-recommendations-for-the-early-detection-of-breast-cancer.html> (last visited Feb 15, 2022).

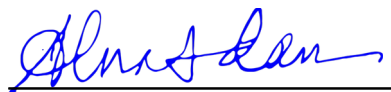
⁷ Mei-Sing Ong & Kenneth D. Mandl, *National expenditure for false-positive mammograms and breast cancer Overdiagnoses estimated at \$4 billion a year*, 34 HEALTH AFFAIRS 576–583 (2015).

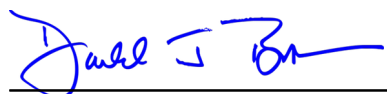
⁸ <https://www.galleri.com/the-galleri-test/types-of-cancer-detected>

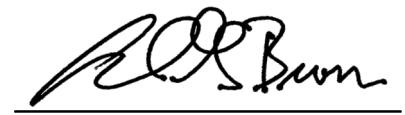
Administration joins your commitment to promote early screening to end cancer as we know it and seizes the opportunity that multicancer early detection technology presents to the future of breast cancer.


Sincerely,



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

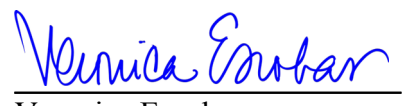

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
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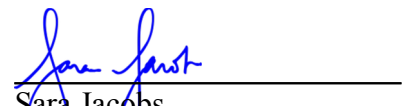

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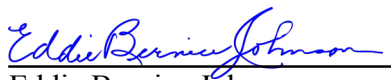

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Member of Congress

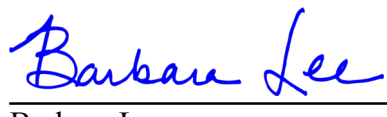
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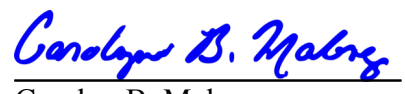
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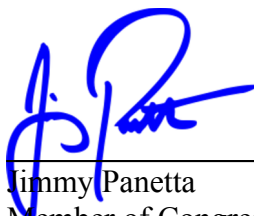

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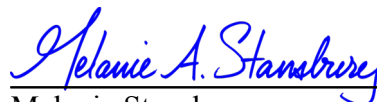
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