

JOYCE BEATTY  
OHIO, 3RD DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ON  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING, COMMUNITY

DEVELOPMENT AND INSURANCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3503

2303 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4324-PHONE  
(202) 225-1984-FAX

471 E. BROAD STREET, SUITE 1100  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215  
(614) 220-0003-PHONE  
(614) 220-5640-FAX

Beatty.house.gov

January 31, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

Thank you for your sustained and commendable commitment to ending cancer as we know it. I will always remember the honor and excitement I had traveling with you to The James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute at The Ohio State University this past year.

I write to urge your support for an important policy that has received broad support among members of the Congressional Black Caucus and other health equity leaders across the country, the Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act (H.R. 1946). This legislation is led by our caucus colleague Representative, Terri Sewell, and she joins me and our caucus in asking you to include H.R. 1946 in your priorities. It represents an enormous opportunity to address the alarming health equity challenges surrounding cancer and to help shepherd in a new era of detecting more cancers early.

One of the biggest existing hurdles to beating cancer is our limited ability to detect it early. As you know, most cancers are found too late, which results in increased mortality rates and higher treatment costs. By finding cancer at an early stage, we can give nearly nine out of every ten patients the chance to survive five years or longer. The promise of early detection delivers hope for all of us, but particularly for Black Americans, who, across cancers, have the highest death rate and shortest survival of any racial and ethnic group in the United States. We must do better. Congress and the Administration have an opportunity to work together, as we have done in the past, to ensure that our constituents have equitable access to new cancer detection tools.

The bipartisan, bicameral Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act would allow for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Coverage (CMS) to evaluate and cover promising new early detection cancer screening technologies when approved by the FDA. These technologies represent the future of how we detect and, therefore treat, cancer. They hold the promise to end cancer as we know it through the early detection of dozens of cancers, including many cancers that otherwise lack early detection capability.

In a recent letter to congress, the National Minority Quality Forum (NMQF), along with nearly a dozen leading health equity organizations, wrote that H.R. 1946 “is essential to extend the authority of the Medicare program to cover blood-based multi-cancer early detection tests that will improve the lives of Medicare beneficiaries and their families. The science driving cancer screenings is advancing rapidly, and healthcare policy must keep pace. This Act will have benefits for all seniors, a population cohort at a higher risk for cancer overall, but in light of morbidity and mortality disparities, it portends a particular benefit for communities of color.”

The Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act enjoys broad support from 182 bipartisan members of the House and Senate and more than 315 organizations across the country. I respectfully urge you and your administration to include this important Medicare access legislation as you continue your work. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joyce Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress