



July 14, 2016

Honorable Kelly Ayotte
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for S. Res. 521, National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

Dear Senator Ayotte:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write in support of S. Res. 521 expressing support for the designation of September 2016 as "National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month."

Ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States, with new cases affecting over 22,000 women this year. Unfortunately, the mortality rate for ovarian cancer has not significantly decreased in over 40 years. Even with medical advances, a quarter of women will die within one year of diagnosis with ovarian cancer and over half will die within five years. The lack of knowledge among women of the symptoms of ovarian cancer has led to the issue of 80 percent of cases being detected at an advanced stage. S.Res. 521 will help increase awareness of early detection and prevent death caused by this deadly disease.

ONS is a professional organization of over 39,000 registered nurses and other health care providers dedicated to excellence in patient care, education, research, and administration in oncology nursing. The growing demand for cancer care, from prevention to palliative care, requires oncology nurses to play a pivotal and increasingly important role in delivering high quality, safe, effective and efficient health care to people affected by, or at risk for, cancer.

We very much appreciate your longtime leadership on cancer issues of importance to ONS and the patients we serve. We would be happy to discuss ways in which ONS may be of assistance in this endeavor, and would encourage you to contact Alec Stone, MA, MPA, ONS Director of Health Policy, at astone@ons.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan M. Schneider". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Susan Schneider, PhD, RN, AOCN®, FAAN
President
Oncology Nursing Society