



March 4, 2016

The Honorable Donald M. Payne, Jr.
103 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.Res. 630, supporting the designation of March 2016 as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Dear Representative Payne:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write to thank you for introducing H.Res. 630, supporting the designation of March 2016 as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. H.Res. 630 would raise public awareness for and encourage educational efforts on colorectal cancer prevention, screening, and symptoms.

As you know, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men and women combined in the United States. This year, more than 130,000 individuals in the United States will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and approximately 50,000 more will die from it. Oncology nurses are the health professionals involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and managing the associated side effects cancer patients may experience. Every day, we see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment.

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. ONS members are a diverse group of professionals who represent a variety of roles, practice settings, and subspecialties. Our nurses are leaders in the health care arena, committed to continuous learning and leading the transformation of cancer treatment by advocating for high-quality care for our patients.

Please know that ONS and its members very much appreciate your leadership on the issue of colorectal cancer awareness. We stand ready to work with you and your staff to reduce and prevent suffering from cancer. 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. We look forward to engaging in an ongoing dialogue to address issues of importance to our cancer patients and ways in which we can promote public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. Margaret Barton-Burke".

Margaret Barton-Burke, PhD, RN, FAAN
President, Oncology Nursing Society