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March 4, 2021

Representative Kathy Castor
2052 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Castor,

The Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) is pleased to endorse the "Promoting Resources to Expand Vaccination, Education and New Treatments for HPV Cancers Act" or the "PREVENT HPV Cancers Act" (H.R. 1550). Thank you for introducing this important legislation that would increase research, awareness, and access to the vaccine which prevents the human papillomavirus (HPV) types that cause most cervical cancers as well as some other cancers.

ASCO is a national organization representing nearly 45,000 physicians and other health care professionals specializing in cancer treatment, diagnosis, and prevention. As the leading professional organization for physicians and oncology professionals caring for people with cancer, we are committed to ensuring all Americans have the access and education necessary to make informed decisions about cancer screenings and prevention.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there are about 40 types of HPV that can infect the genital areas of men and women. While most HPV types cause no symptoms and go away on their own, some types can cause cervical cancer in women and other less common cancers. In total, HPV is responsible for about 36,000 cancer diagnoses per year in the United States, many of which could have been prevented if the individual had received the HPV vaccine.

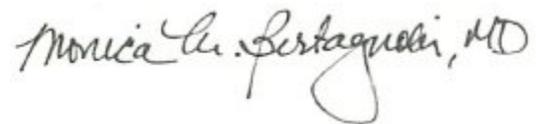
Recent survey data published in the Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics indicated that 64% of parents were hesitant to vaccinate their child in 2018, compared to 50.4% in 2012. Providers could also benefit from a comprehensive education campaign. Data show that in 2018, providers only recommended the HPV Vaccine to about half of the more than 7 million unvaccinated adolescents who were eligible for the vaccine. More education and awareness regarding the efficacy and safety of the HPV vaccine is needed for parents, patients, and providers.

Additional research, as authorized in the PREVENT HPV Cancers Act, would also provide necessary information on where vaccination gaps are most prevalent, and which American demographics are being affected by HPV related cancers. In a 2014 policy statement from our affiliate organization, the American Society

of Clinical Oncology, titled [Human Papillomavirus Vaccination for Cancer Prevention](#), data showed that HPV-related cancers seem to be disproportionately distributed among those living on lower income, have lower educational attainment, and various racial/ethnic minority groups. More comprehensive research would help better identify these disparities and help find ways to address them.

We look forward to working with you to pass this critical legislation. If you have any questions on any issue involving the care of individuals with cancer or would like to be directed to ASCO's thoughts on other access issues that affect patients with cancer, please contact Kristin Stuart at Kristin.Stuart@asco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monica M. Bertagnoli, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'M' at the end.

Monica M. Bertagnoli, MD, FACS, FASCO
Chair of the Board, Association for Clinical Oncology