



August 8, 2024

The Honorable Yadira Caraveo, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Wilson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Yadira Caraveo, M.D. and Representative Joe Wilson;

We are writing to express our deepest gratitude for your bipartisan leadership in introducing the Stomach Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Act (H.R.9304). This vital legislation marks a significant milestone in the fight against stomach cancer, offering hope and a pathway to improved health outcomes for countless individuals.

As a coalition of organizations and advocates committed to combating stomach cancer, we represent a united front in our support for this legislation. Alongside numerous signers from the medical, research, and patient advocacy communities, we stand firmly behind this bill. Your efforts to prioritize early detection and prevention are crucial steps in addressing the disparities and challenges faced by those at risk.

Personally, this legislation holds profound significance. My father was diagnosed with advanced stomach cancer in 2013, a diagnosis that could have been prevented with better screening and awareness. He had all the risk factors, yet the absence of comprehensive prevention measures meant his cancer was detected at a late stage. This experience underscores the urgent need for the initiatives proposed in your bill.

The disparities in stomach cancer incidence and mortality, particularly among minority populations, are well-documented. The Stomach Cancer Task Force and AGA has highlighted these issues extensively, advocating for equitable healthcare solutions. Your bill aligns perfectly with these efforts, aiming to reduce the burden of this devastating disease through research, public awareness, and access to screenings.

Thank you once again for your unwavering dedication to this cause. Your work is not only legislative progress but a beacon of hope for families like mine and for all those affected by stomach cancer. We urge Congress to support this vital legislation, and we look forward to collaborating with you to see this bill become a reality.

Sincerely,

Aki Smith

Founder, Hope for Stomach Cancer

On behalf of the Stomach Cancer Task Force, American Gastroenterological Association and all signers

Dr. A. Craig Lockhart, GI Oncologist, Medical University of South Carolina
Dr. Andrew Chan, Leader of the SU2C Gastric Cancer Interception Team
Dr. David Drew, Research Team Member of the SU2C Gastric Cancer Interception Team
Dr. Jennifer M. Yeh, Scientific Researcher, Boston Children's Hospital
Dr. Jose Pimiento, Surgeon, Moffitt Cancer Center
Dr. Samuel Klempner, GI Oncologist, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center
Dr. Martin Taylor, Pathologist, Taylor Lab, Brown University Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Dr. Matthew Prest, Researcher/Programmer Columbia University
Dr. Michael Gibson, GI Oncologist VUMC/Vanderbilt University
Dr. Miguel A. Burch, Surgeon, Cedars-Sinai
Dr. Ryan Moy, GI Oncologist, Columbia University Irving Medical Center
Dr. Sunnie Kim, GI Oncologist, University of Colorado Cancer Center
Dr. William R. Sellers, Professor of Medicine, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School
Dr. Yanghee Woo, Scientist and Surgeon, City of Hope
DLH Foundation
Gastric Cancer Foundation
Facing Cancer LLC
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
GI Cancers Alliance
Korea Town Senior and Community Center
No Stomach For Cancer
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Project Periwinkle
Raymond Foundation
Sara Schottenstein Foundation
The Esther Carrier Memorial Fund

For further information or questions, please contact Kathleen Teixeira, American Gastroenterological Association, at kteixeira@gastro.org.