

STOMACH CANCER PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION ACT (H.R. 9304)



POSITION

We strongly support the **Stomach Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Act (H.R. 9304)** and urge all members of Congress to cosponsor this crucial legislation.

This Act is essential in addressing the significant racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in stomach cancer outcomes and improving early detection and care.

BACKGROUND

Stomach cancer remains a major public health issue, with nearly 27,000 new cases expected in the United States in 2024. Despite a decline in overall incidence, disparities among racial and ethnic groups are significant.

The absence of early detection, public awareness, and structured screening systems contributes to late-stage diagnoses and poor outcomes.

FACTS

- **Incidence and Mortality:** Stomach cancer accounts for 1.5% of all new cancer diagnoses in the U.S. each year, with racial and ethnic minorities disproportionately affected.
- **Disparities:** Asian and Hispanic Americans face the highest incidence of stomach cancer, and there is a notable disparity in mortality rates across different racial and ethnic groups.
- **Lack of Guidelines:** There is a critical need for national guidelines on detection, early screening, and care for stomach cancer, particularly in high-risk populations.
- **Advanced Stages:** Many patients from underrepresented communities, including a growing number of young adults under 40, are diagnosed at advanced stages, resulting in bleak outcomes. These patients rely heavily on support services to navigate the challenges of their diagnosis and treatment.

THE ASK: We urge Congress to address the gastric cancer disparity and support our patient advocate constituents by **cosponsoring the Stomach Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Act (H.R. 9304)**. This legislation is critical to establishing guidelines for detection, early screening, and comprehensive care for stomach cancer patients, particularly those from high-risk populations.

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WHO WE ARE

We are a coalition of organizations and advocates, including the Stomach Cancer Task Force, the American Gastroenterological Association, and a wide array of medical professionals, researchers, and patient advocacy groups. Our mission is to reduce the incidence and mortality of stomach cancer through prevention, early detection, and equitable healthcare access.

ABOUT US

HOPE FOR STOMACH CANCER is the nation's leading stomach cancer awareness and support organization. We are the bridge connecting stakeholders to improve stomach cancer outcomes through support, solutions, and synergy. HOPE participates on both national and international stages to advance research, advocate for improved access and care, and support patients and families with comprehensive programs and services. Our belief is that there is always hope.

WHAT WE DO

Advocacy: We advocate for policies and legislation that address stomach cancer disparities, health equity and promote early detection and prevention.

Education: We educate the public and healthcare providers on stomach cancer risk factors, symptoms, and the importance of early screening.

Support: We offer vital resources and support to patients, caregivers, and families, particularly those from underrepresented and low-to-middle-income communities.

Research: We support and advance research efforts aimed at improving stomach cancer outcomes, focusing on the needs of high-risk populations.

GASTRIC CANCER DISPARITY IN THE U.S.: A THREAT TO RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITIES BY THE STOMACH CANCER TASK FORCE

Gastric cancer has severe impacts on certain ethnicities and races, with the highest number of cases in the U.S. occurring among Asian and Hispanic Americans. The five-year survival rate across all stages remains dismally low at 33%. Despite these alarming statistics, there is no structured system to screen for gastric cancer in high-risk populations.

Disparities in Care: Racial, age, socioeconomic status, and geographic location all contribute to the disparities in stomach cancer outcomes. More than half of our patients come from underrepresented communities, many of whom are diagnosed at advanced stages. These patients depend on HOPE's programs and services to help them navigate the overwhelming obstacles of diagnosis, treatment, and support.

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