

September XX, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi:

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. and a cause of considerable suffering among the 135,000 adults diagnosed and nearly 50,000 who die each year from this devastating disease. Approximately 60 percent of cases and 70 percent of deaths occur in the Medicare covered population.

Under current law, screening colonoscopies for seniors on Medicare are free. However, if a polyp is removed during the procedure seniors on Medicare are required to pay 20 percent coinsurance. This coinsurance obligation for patients often exceeds \$300 for those without supplementary coverage. This colonoscopy cost-sharing only occurs in Medicare. H.R. 1220, the Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act would make this life-saving preventive service available without cost-sharing for Medicare patients just like those in private insurance.

Colonoscopies are proven to prevent and detect colon cancer at earlier stages when treatment is more effective and can save lives. Any cost-sharing can be a major impediment to patients from getting screened, particularly seniors. This vital bill would help to ensure that every senior on Medicare has access to this lifesaving cancer screening, regardless of their ability to pay.

To date, 283 bipartisan members of the U.S. House of Representatives and 38 U.S. Senators signaled their support for a change in law to protect Medicare beneficiaries with their cosponsorship. For this reason, we ask that the bill be brought to the floor for consideration before the end of the 114th Congress.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

cc: The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee