

2017 Priorities in Prostate Cancer Advocacy

- I. **Maintain Federal Funding for Prostate Cancer Research** – The Prostate Cancer Research Program (PCRP) at the Department of Defense (DoD) is the most impactful federally funded prostate cancer program. PCRP employs a unique structure that sets clear program goals each year to address gaps in understanding of diagnosis and treatment of the disease. The PCRP approach differs from that of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). PCRP takes on high-risk, high-reward translations research, while NIH focuses on basic research. PCRP research has led to the development of three new treatments for advanced disease and one advanced diagnostic in the last six years. PRCP is focused on improving diagnosis to reduce overtreatment and accurately determine life-threatening disease from indolent tumors. We urge Congress to maintain funding for the PCRP at \$90M in the FY2018 DoD appropriations bill, and we stand with the broader cancer community to support increased funding at the NIH. **Please sign the King-Bishop (House) or Crapo-Menendez (Senate) dear colleague letter to the House and Senate appropriations committees supporting funding for the PCRP program.**
- II. **Support robust coverage for cancer screening and treatment** – As Congress considers legislation to replace the Affordable Care Act, cancer patients must be assured that screening for prostate cancer is neither cost prohibitive, nor limited by government panels. Decisions about treatment should be made between a man and his doctor. Insurance options, whether through government or private sector plans, must have clear requirements for coverage of cancer care and treatment that ensure that men with prostate cancer are diagnosed early and treated effectively – bringing down overall medical costs and saving lives.
- III. **Cosponsor H.R. 539, the USPSTF Transparency and Accountability Act of 2017** introduced by Reps. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and Bobby Rush (D-IL). The bill would make significant changes to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), and the process the Task Force uses to make formal recommendations regarding preventive care services. It requires the involvement of specialists and stakeholders in the recommendation process, in addition to public comment periods on draft recommendations. The bill also strikes the language added by the Affordable Care Act that directly ties Medicare coverage of preventive services to the USPSTF grades.
- IV. **Protect Prostate Cancer Surveillance and Education** – The FY15 and FY16 budget requests eliminated funding within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) comprehensive cancer control program for prostate cancer activities. This work supports the development and dissemination of materials to help patients and providers have more informed discussions about treatment options. It also provides needed funding for important surveillance activities that help providers, epidemiologists, and researchers better understand the disease, its incidence, and progression. The Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bills have maintained funding for CDC prostate cancer activities in the last two years, and we hope that support for the CDC will continue. **We ask that Members include support for this program in their individual communications to the Appropriations Committee.**