

# CANCER LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

A PATIENT-CENTERED FORUM OF NATIONAL ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS  
ADDRESSING PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES IN CANCER

June 15, 2023

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Chair  
Senate HELP Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
Ranking Member  
Senate HELP Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy:

The undersigned cancer patient, medical professional, research, and caregiver organizations write to express our enthusiastic support for Dr. Monica Bertagnolli for the position of Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We know Dr. Bertagnolli as a talented physician researcher, cancer center leader, professional peer and leader, and cancer survivor. We believe she has the expertise, experience, and temperament to be a stellar NIH leader.

Many of us have known Dr. Bertagnolli for many years, working with her to advance cancer research and care and improve the quality of care and life for cancer survivors. Others have become acquainted with Dr. Bertagnolli during her brief tenure as National Cancer Institute (NCI) Director. In her months at NCI, she has sought out every group of cancer stakeholder but has been especially mindful of seeking the input of and becoming acquainted with cancer patients and patient advocates she did not already know. Her own diagnosis with cancer has made an already empathetic and sensitive physician researcher even more attuned to the life-changing challenges that come with

a cancer diagnosis. We wish she had never heard the words, “you have cancer,” but we are gratified that she remains in the fight to ensure that fewer Americans hear those words and that a cancer diagnosis is steadily less frightening because of treatment advances.

Sincerely,

**Cancer Leadership Council**

Academy of Oncology Nurse and Patient Navigators  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
Association for Clinical Oncology  
Association for Molecular Pathology  
*CancerCare*  
Cancer Support Community  
Children’s Cancer Cause  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association  
International Myeloma Foundation  
LUNgevity Foundation  
Lymphoma Research Foundation  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship  
Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Susan G. Komen

Cc: Members, Senate HELP Committee