

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 23, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Moore Capito and Ranking Member Baldwin:

As you consider the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, we encourage the Committee to include \$51 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Colorectal Cancer Control Program (CRCCP). The increase in funding will allow the CRCCP to reach more communities in more states and serve populations that face the greatest challenges to getting screened.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men and women combined. According to the American Cancer Society, it is estimated that over 154,270 cases of colorectal cancer will be diagnosed in the United States in 2025, and 52,900 people will die.<sup>1</sup> Colorectal cancer is one of the only preventable cancers and is highly treatable when caught early. It is more imperative than ever that we support programs like the CRCCP that increase education and screening in underserved communities. It is estimated that tens of thousands of colorectal cancer deaths could be avoided if people are screened appropriately.<sup>2</sup>

Colorectal cancer does not affect all Americans equally. According to the American Cancer Society, colorectal cancer incidence is highest among American Indian and Alaska Native individuals followed by non-Hispanic Black individuals. Rural Americans are more likely to be diagnosed with and die from colorectal cancer than those in urban areas. These groups are also less likely to be screened for colorectal cancer and as a result are more likely to present with late-stage, incurable disease.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2025. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2025. Retrieved from <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/annual-cancer-facts-and-figures/2025/2025-cancer-facts-and-figures-acf.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Doubeni, C. A., Lansdorf-Vogelaar, I., Goede, S. L., Levin, T. R., Quinn, V. P., Ballegooijen, M. v, Corley, D. A., & Zauber, A. G. (2015). Colorectal cancer deaths attributable to nonuse of screening in the United States. *Annals of epidemiology*, 25(3), 208–213.e1. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annepidem.2014.11.011>

The CRCCP's mission is to increase colorectal cancer screening rates among people between the ages of 45 and 75 by implementing evidence-based interventions through partnerships with local health systems and providing screening and follow-up services for the country's most vulnerable patients.

The CRCCP currently supports 35 award recipients, including 20 states, eight universities, two tribal organizations, and five other types of organizations. Grants are awarded through a competitive process designed to focus on increasing screening in targeted populations by working with local community organizations. This allows each community to implement an evidence-based program that works best for its unique population. Recipients are partnering with over 500 clinics across the U.S., operating in 32 states and the District of Columbia, to serve over 600,000 patients ages 45-75. In the previous five-year funding cycle (2015-2019), the program partnered with over 800 clinics that served 1.3 million patients, and among clinics participating for all five years, screening rates increased by an average of 13 percentage points in the first four years, saving money and saving lives.

As the Committee continues its work on the FY26 appropriations bills, we ask that you provide \$51 million for this important program so that the CRCCP can continue its work and expand life-saving screening to all of our nation's most vulnerable patients.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

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<sup>3</sup> American Cancer Society. Colorectal Cancer Facts & Figures 2020-2022. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/colorectal-cancer-facts-and-figures/colorectal-cancer-facts-and-figures-2020-2022.pdf>



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Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator




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Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



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Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



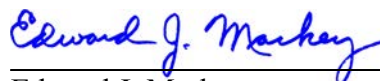
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Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
United States Senator



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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



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Angela Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



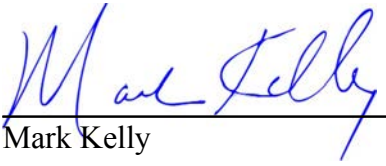
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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



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Elissa Slotkin  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

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Mark Kelly

United States Senator