

November 14, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
House Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, House Minority Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Schumer, and Senate Minority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the nearly 500 undersigned organizations, inclusive of patient advocacy organizations, health care providers and health systems, genetic counselors, and genetic counseling graduate programs, we urge Congress to include, in an end-of-year legislative package, legislation that would recognize genetic counselors as providers in the Medicare program, thereby increasing access to critical genetic counseling services. S. 2323/H.R. 3876, the Access to Genetic Counselor Services Act, takes a measured approach to modernize Medicare to catch up with the innovation of genetics and genomic medicine.

Genetic counselors are healthcare professionals with specialized graduate degrees in medical genetics and counseling, a profession that emerged in the early 1970s as genetics became better understood and diagnostic options expanded. They play a critical role in the healthcare system by partnering with patients and providers across various disciplines. Particularly vital for Medicare beneficiaries with cancer, cardiovascular disease, renal and neurological disorders, genetic counselors help patients navigate genetic testing options and facilitate communication among healthcare providers managing genetic health issues.<sup>1</sup> Ultimately, they empower both patients and providers to make informed decisions.

To ensure that the promise of genetic medicine is fully realized, public policy must support the integration of genetic counselors into the healthcare system, starting with the Medicare program. Many commercial health plans already cover and reimburse genetic counselors, as research shows that their involvement leads to improved outcomes in both quality and cost. Currently, Medicare reimburses genetic counseling when provided by other Medicare practitioners. By recognizing genetic counselors as practitioners, Medicare could potentially save billions through the appropriate utilization of genomic testing.<sup>2</sup> This legislation will enable the Medicare program to reimburse genetic counselors directly, thereby improving everyone's access to their services.

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<sup>1</sup> [Precision Medicine Hinges On Access To Genetic Counselors | Health Affairs](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Genetic Counselors Save Costs Across the Genetic Testing Spectrum](#)

Enacting federal legislation to recognize genetic counselors as Medicare providers is essential to guarantee beneficiaries access to high-quality genetic services. We look forward to working with you to ensure that our nation's genetic counselors are acknowledged as integral practitioners of the healthcare system, allowing patients to access their expertise.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

### **Academic Medical Center**

Columbia University Irving Medical Center  
City of Hope National Medical Center  
Columbia University Irving Medical Center  
Department of Human Genetics, Emory  
University  
Emory School of Medicine  
Johns Hopkins Medicine  
Kennedy Krieger Institute  
Long Island University Post  
MD Anderson Cancer Center Cooper  
The University of Texas MD Anderson  
Cancer Center UTHealth Houston Graduate  
School of Biomedical Sciences  
University of Arkansas for Medical  
Sciences, Department of Genetic Counseling  
University of Buffalo  
University of Iowa  
University of Maryland School of Medicine  
University of Utah Health  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
Weill Cornell Medicine  
Yale University, School of Medicine

### **Clinician Group**

ACT Genetics PLLC  
American Society for Reproductive  
Medicine  
Arizona Genetics Alliance  
Cancer Partners of Nebraska  
CARTI  
Chicago Genetic Consultants, LLC  
Compass Oncology

Division of Genetics, Department of  
Pediatrics. UCSD  
Florida Association of Genetic Counselors  
Genetic Support Foundation  
Genome Medical  
GeriatRx  
Greenwood Genetic Center  
Grow Therapy  
HealthyGene  
Human Genetics Association of New Jersey  
Invision Sally Jobe / Radiology Imaging  
Associates  
Jscreen  
Kaiona Counseling  
Maryland oncology hematology  
Medical Students for Choice  
Minnesota Oncology  
MKGenetix  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners  
in Women's Health  
Nebraska Hematology-Oncology  
North Carolina Medical Genetics  
Association  
Northern Nevada Genetic Counseling  
Organization of Teratology Information  
Specialists  
Orlando Health Cancer Institute  
Pallister Genetics  
Pregnancy Specialty Center of Texas  
Self Employed  
The US Oncology Network  
Virginia Cancer Specialists  
Virginia Chapter of the American College of  
Cardiology  
Watershed DNA

## **Graduate Program**

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Boston University  
Emory University  
Long Island University Post  
MGH Institute of Health Professions  
Northwestern University  
Sarah Lawrence College  
University of North Carolina Greensboro  
University of South Carolina  
University of South Florida  
Wake Forest University  
Xavier University of Louisiana

## **Health System/Hospital**

Baystate Health  
Blank Children's Hospital - UnityPoint  
Health  
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Cardiology  
CARTI  
Genetic Support Foundation  
GO2 for Lung Cancer  
Good Samaritan hospital  
Grady Health System  
Lewis Cancer & Research Pavilion  
Mass General Brigham  
Mercy Health  
Memorial Health University  
NYC Health+Hospitals Metropolitan  
Piedmont Healthcare  
Seattle Children's Hospital  
Shodair Children's Hospital  
Sutter Health  
UnityPoint Health  
UnityPoint Health- John Stoddard Cancer  
Center  
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center  
Winchester Hospital

## **Industry**

Alexion, AstraZeneca Rare Disease  
Color Health  
Coriell Life Sciences

Exact Sciences  
Genescreen  
Genomenon  
IVIRMA  
Labcorp  
Monica Weldon Consulting LLC  
MyOme  
Natera  
National Society of Genetic Counselors  
Nest Genomics  
Olivia's Light, Inc  
Quest Diagnostics  
Relevant Genetics, LLC  
Sanofi  
Statmetrics LLC  
xCures

## **Patient Group**

AliveandKick'n  
ALS Association  
American Kidney Fund  
Association for Creatine Deficiencies  
Avery's Hope  
BRCA Responder  
Cancer Resource Foundation,  
Cancer1Source  
CHops Syndrome GLocal  
Choroideremia Research Foundation  
Coalition to Cure CHD2  
Colon Cancer Coalition  
Colorectal Cancer Alliance  
COMBINEDBrain  
CSNK2A1 Foundation  
CSNK2B Foundation  
CTNNB1 Connect and Cure  
Cure CMD  
CURE GABA-A  
Cure GM1 Foundation  
Cure VCP Disease  
CureGRIN Foundation  
DCM Foundation  
Down Syndrome Association of Central  
Ohio  
Down Syndrome Association of Northeast  
Ohio

ElevateDD  
EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
Flok Health  
FOD Family Support Group  
Foundation for Angelman Syndrome  
Therapeutics  
GABA-A Alliance  
Georgia Center for Oncology Research and  
Education (Georgia CORE)  
GI Cancers Alliance  
HCU Network America  
ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy  
Network  
Immune Deficiency Foundation  
Jacqueline Rush Foundation  
Kabuki Syndrome Foundation  
KCNQ2 Cure Alliance  
Les Turner ALS Foundation  
Li Fraumeni Syndrome Association.org  
Malan Syndrome Foundation  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
National Organization for Rare Disorders  
No Stomach For Cancer  
NW Rare Disease Coalition  
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy  
Personalized Medicine Coalition  
Project Alive  
Raymond Foundation  
Remember the Girls  
RUNX1 Research Program (RRP)  
SATB2 Gene Foundation  
Sharsheret  
STXBP1 Foundation  
Susan G. Komen  
SynGAP Research Fund, dba Curesyngap1  
Tatton Brown Rahman Syndrome (TBRS)  
Community  
TESS Research Foundation  
The Ehlers-Danlos Society  
United Leukodystrophy Foundation  
United MSD Foundation

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