



## H.R. 842, the *Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act*

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### Background:

- Over the next 10 years, **4.5 million seniors** will be diagnosed with late-stage cancer.
  - Medicare will spend an **estimated \$1 trillion on cancer care** over that same time period with **75%** being spent to treat late-stage cancer.
  - Cancer patients have an **89% survival rate when diagnosed early** compared to a 21% survival rate when diagnosed in later stages. Early detection results in **4 times better outcomes** and **7 times lower costs**.
- According to NIH, access to cancer screenings has given Americans combined **12 million additional life years** and added at least **\$6.5 trillion in additional economic benefit**.
- Numerous studies document **rural and urban patient cancer disparities**. Compared to residents of urban areas:
  - Rural patients face a **30% higher cancer mortality rate**.
  - Rural patients are **screened for cancer less often** and are **diagnosed with late-stage cancers more frequently**.
- New technologies on the market allow for the **screening of multiple cancers** at once with small samples of blood.
- Unfortunately, Medicare has **no viable pathway** for coverage of these innovative, new technologies within the next decade even though **early cancer detection can help drive down health care costs over the long run**.
- Currently, Medicare beneficiaries only have access to early-detection screenings for 5 types of cancers; however, according to the Mayo Clinic, **71% of all cancer deaths** in the older population are from types that **do not have Medicare covered early-detection tests**.

### The Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act:

- Provides **transitional Medicare coverage** and reimbursement for FDA-approved multi-cancer early detection screening tests for the cohort beneficiaries most impacted by early screening until a traditional coverage decision is issued with coverage expanded to all.
  - Newly eligible Medicare beneficiaries, and those becoming eligible within the next few years, will receive **access to covered multi-cancer screening tests**, with those individuals continuing to receive coverage during their entire Medicare enrollment years.
- Ensures timely coverage of innovative cancer screening tests so at-risk Medicare patients can receive the care and treatment needed early to help live healthier and longer lives.