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November 22nd, 2024

The Honorable Jodey Arrington
U.S. House of Representatives
1107 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20515

CC:
Representative Terri Sewell
Representative Richard Hudson
Representative Raul Ruiz, MD
Senator Mike Crapo
Senator Michael Bennet
Senator Tim Scott
Senator Ben Cardin
Texas Congressional Delegation

RE: Urgent Need for Passing Multi-Cancer Early Detection Legislation

Dear Representative Arrington,

My name is Tad Carper, and I live in McKinney, Texas. I serve as the Senior Vice President of Communications for the Dallas Cowboys, and I'm writing to express my gratitude for your leadership and bipartisan commitment to advancing the Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act (H.R. 2407 / S. 2085). Just last month, an MCED blood test detected my throat cancer in its early stages – before I even had symptoms. Thanks to early detection, I underwent surgery, and my prognosis is positive. My sincere hope is that your gift to America this year will be the December passage of this life-saving legislation, which would give Medicare beneficiaries access to multi-cancer early detection (MCED) technology.

With over 25 years in professional sports, working with both the NBA and NFL, I've seen countless campaigns to raise awareness, generate funds, and support the fight against cancer. But now, as I face my own cancer journey, I realize that one of the best ways to help is by ensuring that Americans have access to early detection.

My own experience started with an MCED blood test arranged by our Cowboys quarterback and recent NFL Man of the Year, Dak Prescott, who champions cancer screenings through his Faith, Fight, Finish Foundation. Earlier this year, Dak's foundation partnered with a local health system to support MCED adoption, and our coaches and myself had the opportunity to be tested. Like so many others, I didn't expect my results to come back positive – I felt fine. But the MCED test revealed my cancer early, and without it, I wouldn't have known until the disease had progressed. Now, as I recover from surgery with optimism about the future, I'm acutely aware of how different my story could have been without early detection. While I'm grateful and blessed to have had access to MCED technology, I'm concerned that others do not have the same opportunity, especially Medicare beneficiaries who could benefit most from proactive screening. Countless lives could be saved if Medicare was empowered to cover these tests.

I want to commend you and your co-authors, Representatives Terri Sewell, Richard Hudson, and Raul Ruiz, along with Senators Michael Crapo, Michael Bennet, Tim Scott, and Ben Cardin, for your bipartisan leadership in advancing this crucial legislation. I have come to understand that the support you've garnered from nearly 400 Members of the House and Senate, along with the strong endorsement of the American Cancer Society, over 600 leading stakeholder groups, and cancer experts nationwide, is a testament to the bill's importance.

NBC's NFL Sunday Night Football recently shared this story with an audience of almost 24 million viewers and I share it with you now because MCED technology has the power to save countless lives. My experience is proof that there is no better defense against cancer than early detection and early intervention. I sincerely hope that your urgent work in Congress will soon ensure this same opportunity for millions more Americans.

Thank you for propelling this crucial legislation toward the Congressional end zone. I respectfully ask that you and your colleagues enact this into law before Congress adjourns this year.

Sincerely,



Tad Carper
Senior Vice President of Communications
Dallas Cowboys