



September 16, 2025

Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Neal, Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, and members of the committees:

We write today to express our ongoing support for H.R. 842, The Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act and applaud your committees' attention to this matter this week. H.R. 842 will deliver meaningful progress in our nation's ability to combat cancer, particularly for those of us who live in rural communities.

The burden of late-stage cancer is particularly acute in rural America, where access to cancer screening is further away and more challenging to routinely maintain. Rural communities have higher rates of cancer incidence, late-stage diagnoses, and mortality compared with urban areas. Multi-cancer early detection (MCED) tests can change that. These tests are administered with a blood draw, meaning they can be delivered in more care centers in rural areas.

And because a higher percentage of people living in rural areas are over the age of 65 compared to their urban counterparts, H.R. 842 takes on an increased importance. Age is the biggest risk factor for developing cancer, so ensuring seniors can have access to these new cancer screening technologies without lengthy and unnecessary bureaucratic delays is only right.

Rural communities are counting on Congress to ensure they are not left behind in the fight against cancer. Thank you for your attention and we strongly urge Congress to pass it into law without any further delay.

Sincerely,
Christine E. Hamp
President
The National Grange