**SAMPLE LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Insert Date

***Re: Support for Patient Navigation Services Reimbursement Legislation***

Dear ,

On behalf of our organization, I write to express our strong support for **A.XYZ/S.XYZ** to require that all state regulated health plans in New York State, including Medicaid, begin reimbursing for patient navigation services, like the way Medicare did so in 2024.

Navigating the health care system can be confusing and complicated. Making decisions after receiving a complex medical diagnosis such as cancer is challenging for anyone, but particularly for populations that have been historically marginalized.

Patient navigation is the individualized assistance that helps a patient overcome health care system barriers from prevention and early detection of disease to accessing necessary access to quality health and psychosocial care. Patient navigation extends across the full care continuum, beginning with screening and early detection, and extends through diagnosis, treatment, survivorship, and end-of-life. Access to patient navigation services can help patients and survivors get the care they need.

Patient navigation can help eliminate health disparities and reduce costs across the care continuum by addressing the needs of people who have been historically marginalized and excluded as well as those living in under resourced communities.

Patient navigators have been shown to help increase cancer screenings rates, help patients better understand treatment options after diagnosis and help ensure patients receive the post treatment care they need in survivorship.

While patient navigation offers tailored patient-centered cancer care and the opportunity to prioritize unique cancer patient needs, it is not just those battling cancer who can benefit from patient navigation services.

Patient navigation also has a proven return on investment and can help identify diagnosis at earlier stages when less invasive and less costly treatment options are available to patients, often resulting in better outcomes and reduced overall costs. Lastly, patient navigation has been shown to increase patient retention and reduce provider administrative burdens.

Despite the record of success, patient navigation services are still absent or limited in many cancer programs and hospital settings due to a lack of clinical reimbursement.

A recent survey of cancer patients by the American Cancer Society showed that while nearly all (91%) of patients surveyed agree that it is important for cancer patients to have access to a patient navigator, only fifty-five percent say their primary oncology provider has a patient navigator available on staff.

Throughout the U.S., a patchwork of coverage exists depending on the where patients live and the type of insurance coverage they have and is not continuous throughout the cancer care continuum. Requiring state regulated health plans in New York State, including Medicaid, to begin reimbursing for patient navigation services, like the way Medicare did so in 2024 will ensure that more New Yorkers benefit from patient navigation services.

To improve cancer outcomes for patients and reduce health care costs overall, we ask you to support **A.XYZ/S.XYZ**.

Sincerely,

Send letters to:

* Senate President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins scousins@nysenate.gov
* Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie Speaker@nyassembly.gov
* Assembly Insurance Committee Chairperson David Weprin WeprinD@nyassembly.gov
* Senate Insurance Committee Chairperson Jamaal Bailey senatorbailey@nysenate.gov

Please BCC michael.davoli@cancer.org