



COLLEGE of AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS

April 15, 2016

The Honorable Donald M. Payne, Jr.
103 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charlie Dent
2211 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Courtney
2348 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Fitzpatrick
2400 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Payne, Dent, Courtney, and Fitzpatrick:

On behalf of the 18,000 members of the College of American Pathologists (CAP), I write in support of the Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act of 2015 (H.R. 1220). We appreciate your leadership in sponsoring this important legislation.

The Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act would correct an oversight in current law that requires Medicare beneficiaries to cover the cost of their copayment for a “free” screening colonoscopy if a polyp is discovered and removed during the procedure. We agree that polyp removal is integral to a screening colonoscopy and support the elimination of this unintended cost. As you know, barriers to preventive care lead to poorer health outcomes and increased health care costs. This legislation would remove the financial barrier, encouraging more of America’s seniors to take advantage of a preventive screening that saves lives.

The CAP is the leading organization of board-certified pathologists, serving patients, pathologists, and the public by fostering and advocating excellence in the practice of pathology and laboratory medicine worldwide. Our members practice clinical and/or anatomic pathology in community hospitals, independent laboratories, academic medical centers, and federal and state health facilities. With extensive experience as a quality standards-setting organization, the CAP also accredits more than 7,000 laboratories and enrolls as many as 23,000 laboratories in its Proficiency Testing (PT) programs. CAP members are at the forefront of utilizing new methods including molecular and genomic testing that predict and diagnose disease, and guide specific patient treatment.

We look forward to seeing this measure enacted into law this Congress. If your staff has any questions, please feel free to have them reach out to Sarah Bogdan at sbogdan@cap.org in our DC office.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Friedberg, MD, PhD, FCAP
President