

United States Senate

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September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month *Cosponsor the Prostate Research, Imaging and Men's Education Act*

Dear Colleague:

This September I have joined the President as well as colleagues in the Senate in recognizing Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Educating men and their families about prostate cancer and early detection strategies is crucial to saving lives.

Each year thousands of families in the United States are impacted by prostate cancer. Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in the United States — striking 1 in every 6 men. The National Cancer Institute estimates that this year 192,280 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and more than 27,000 men will die from the disease.

Unfortunately, current screening techniques for prostate cancer are inadequate. Many tests result in false-negative reassurances or false-positive alarms, both of which can have devastating consequences. According to a recent National Cancer Institute study, 15 percent of men with normal blood test levels may still have prostate cancer and 88 percent of men who undergo a biopsy end up not having prostate cancer.

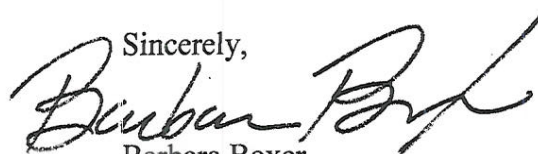
That is why I have sponsored S. 756, the Prostate Research, Imaging and Men's Education (PRIME) Act, a bill that addresses the urgent need for the development of new technologies to detect and diagnose prostate cancer and educate families about the dangers of this deadly disease.

In the past, Federal government investments in advanced imaging technologies have led to life-saving breakthroughs in detection, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer. The PRIME Act would expand our investment in prostate cancer research to develop innovative advanced imaging technologies for prostate cancer detection, diagnosis, and treatment.

In addition, the PRIME Act would create a national campaign to increase awareness about prostate cancer screening and the need to improve our ability to detect this disease. This campaign would work with the Offices of Minority Health at the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure that this information reaches the men most at risk from this disease.

I urge you to join me and the ZERO Project to End Prostate Cancer in support of the PRIME Act, and help us advance the tools doctors use to fight this disease. For more information or to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Cerin Lindgrensavage with Senator Boxer at 8-8312.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator