

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
7TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON COAST
GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS,
PIPELINES AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC POLICY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL WORKFORCE,
POST OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

SENIOR WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2009

2235 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2007
(202) 225-4741
FAX: (202) 225-3178

DISTRICT OFFICES:
1010 PARK AVENUE
SUITE 105
BALTIMORE, MD 21201-5037
(410) 685-9199
FAX: (410) 685-9399

754 FREDERICK ROAD
CATONSVILLE, MD 21228-4504
(410) 719-8777
FAX: (410) 455-0110

8267 MAIN STREET
ROOM 102
ELLCOTT CITY, MD 21043-8903
(410) 465-8259
FAX: (410) 465-8740

www.house.gov/cummings

Raynard S. Kington, M.D., Ph.D.
Acting Director
National Institutes of Health
One Center Drive, Room 126
Bethesda, MD 20892

John E. Niederhuber, MD
Director
National Cancer Institute
31 Center Drive, Room 11A48
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Directors Kington and Niederhuber:

Now that President Barack Obama has signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into law, your agencies will receive an additional \$8.2 billion in funding for critical biomedical research. We urge you to devote some of these funds to research to improve prostate-specific imaging technology for improved early diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer. This research holds enormous promise to drastically reduce human and societal costs of prostate cancer, yet has received minimal support in prior years.

Prostate cancer is the most common major cancer in this country and the second most lethal cancer in men. While it can be cured when diagnosed early, close to 30,000 American men will die from prostate cancer in 2009. Many of us in Congress and millions throughout the country have been personally affected by prostate cancer or had a loved one suffer from it. While this disease has a higher incidence rate than breast cancer, there has not been a similar level of funding. And, in fact, funding for prostate cancer research has decreased over the last six years. Accurate diagnostic technologies comparable to life-saving mammograms still remain unavailable for men, yet the promise of prostate imaging technology is real and immediate. In January, leading experts from around the world stated in a joint letter that they "*firmly believe that more accurate imaging technology would lead to better patient care, including guidance for diagnosis, biopsy and minimally-invasive therapy. Real and important improvement in prostate cancer care are at hand if we are resolved to increase national investment in prostate diagnostics.*"¹

The leadership of NIH in the advancement of breast imaging technologies resulted in the transformation of diagnosis and minimally-invasive treatment of breast cancer. Your agency should now lead the way in creating accurate and affordable prostate imaging tools for men for

¹ AdMeTech Foundation Consensus Conference on Prostate Imaging, Bethesda Maryland, 1/12/09:
http://www.admetech.org/download/consensus_letter.pdf

prostate cancer detection and minimally-invasive treatment. With such technologies, men and their families would face less physical, emotional, and financial trauma. Moreover, improved diagnostics could eliminate unnecessary biopsies and treatment and it is estimated it could result in savings of \$5 billion for national health care each year—an enormous return-on-investment for the research commitment we seek today.

Last June, the House unanimously approved *House Resolution 353* calling for “increased support for research and development of advanced imaging technologies for prostate cancer detection and treatment.” Now, we have given you new resources to accomplish this worthy goal. The medical research community is more than “shovel ready” to put these resources to work. We hope that you will increase significantly the amount of funding for prostate imaging research aimed at early detection and improved treatment of the second most lethal cancer in men.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress



Dan Burton
Member of Congress



Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress



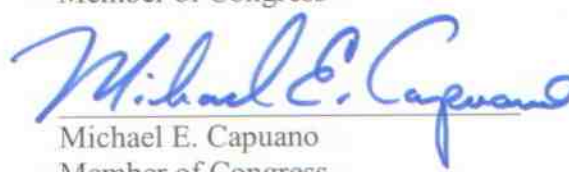
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



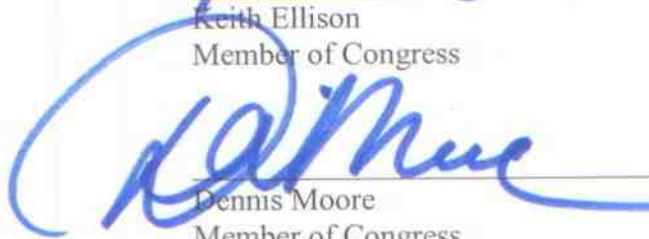
Jesse L. Jackson Jr.
Member of Congress



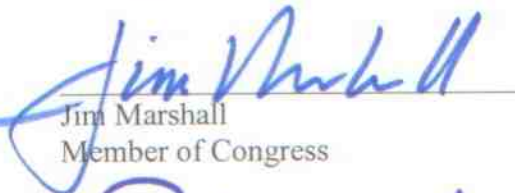
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress




Dennis Moore
Member of Congress



Jim Marshall
Member of Congress



Tim Holden
Member of Congress



Robert Wexler
Member of Congress