

August 30, 2010

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
2235 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Boxer and Congressman Cummings:

The Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) is an association of more than 44,000 radiologists, radiation oncologists, medical physicists and related scientists committed to promoting excellence in radiology through education and by fostering research, with the ultimate goal of improving patient care. On behalf of the RSNA Board of Directors, I am writing to voice RSNA's support for the Prostate Research, Imaging, and Men's Education Act (PRIME Act S. 756/H.R. 4756). We are pleased that the PRIME Act proposes increased government investment in education and research required to create accurate, life-saving diagnostic tools for screening, early detection and minimally-invasive treatment of prostate cancer. The PRIME Act is critical for transforming patient care, saving lives and improving quality of life in millions of American men.

The PRIME Act is critically needed because it authorizes funding over the next five years for the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the development and evaluation of improved in vitro (blood and urinary) testing for mass screening, and prostate cancer imaging technologies for improved early detection and minimally-invasive treatment. We believe the PRIME Act will replicate for prostate care what the U.S. Government successfully did in the 1990's to stimulate development of digital breast imaging technologies, which led to life-saving breakthroughs in early detection and minimally-invasive lumpectomy of breast cancer. The PRIME Act proposes a total of \$650 million over 5 years, which represents only a small fraction of the health care costs that will be wasted over that period of time due to the lack of accurate diagnostic tools causing wide-spread unnecessary biopsies and unnecessary treatment. Indeed, this effort will more than pay for itself, since accurate diagnosis of prostate cancer could save billions of dollars in health care costs through elimination of unnecessary biopsies and surgeries.

We are grateful that you have recognized prostate cancer as a major public health issue and accurate diagnostic tools, including imaging technologies as a solution. As you know, this dreadful disease strikes one in six men, with African-American men having a 60% higher incidence and 250% higher mortality rates than other ethnic groups. Currently, men do not have prostate imaging technologies comparable to life-saving mammography. While the most common available methods of detecting prostate cancer (PSA blood test and physical exams) made it possible to detect prostate cancer in earlier stages, recent large-scale National Cancer Institute funded clinical trials questioned their value in saving lives and demonstrated their harm due to overdiagnosis and overtreatment.

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**RSNA 2010
96th Annual Meeting
November 28 - December 3
Chicago, IL**

Legislative Initiative
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Further research for the advancement of diagnostic tools for prostate cancer is of vital importance to men around the world and we stand ready to assist you in seeking Congressional approval of the PRIME Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George S. Bisset III".

George S. Bisset III, MD
Chairman, Board of Directors



MITA
MEDICAL IMAGING
& TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE
A DIVISION OF **NEMA**

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September 3, 2010

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
2235 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Boxer and Congressman Cummings:

MITA appreciates the opportunity to offer its support of your legislation (S. 756/H.R. 4757) the Prostate Research, Imaging, and Men's Education Act (PRIME Act). MITA is the leading organization and collective voice of medical imaging equipment manufacturers, innovators, and product developers, as well as, an association of companies with a strong interest in helping combat the prostate cancer epidemic. We thank you for your thoughtful legislation in the PRIME Act. If enacted, this legislation will enable MITA members, as well as researchers at universities and medical institutions, to continue important work in pursuit of improved methods for early detection and treatment of prostate cancer. We are certain that, as with the field of breast cancer imaging, lifesaving breakthroughs depend on collaboration and support from both the public and private sectors, with government leading the way.

Your legislation is critically needed because it authorizes funding over the next five years for the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the development and evaluation of improved in vitro (blood and urinary) testing for mass screening and prostate cancer imaging technologies for improved early detection and minimally-invasive treatment. We believe the PRIME Act will replicate for prostate care what the U.S. Government successfully did in the 1990's to stimulate development of digital breast imaging technologies. Government support in that field led to life-saving breakthroughs in early detection and minimally-invasive treatment of breast cancer. This research effort will more than pay for itself, since accurate diagnosis of prostate cancer could reduce health care costs by at least \$5 billion per year through elimination of unnecessary biopsies and surgeries.

As you know, this dreadful disease now strikes at least one in six men, with African-American men having a 60% higher incidence and 250% higher mortality rates than Caucasian men. This work is of vital importance to men around the world and MITA stands ready to assist you in seeking Congressional approval of the PRIME Act.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Morris
Director, Federal Relations
Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance (MITA)



August 16, 2010

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
2235 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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James B. Spies, MD

Executive Director:
Renée L. Cruea, M.P.A.

Dear Senator Boxer and Congressman Cummings:

We are writing on behalf of the Academy of Radiology Research and the Coalition for Imaging & Bioengineering Research - the leading national organizations in medical imaging research representing academic and advocacy communities. Thank you for your leadership in introducing the Prostate Research, Imaging, and Men's Education Act (PRIME Act S. 756/H.R. 4756). We are pleased that the PRIME Act proposes increased government investment in education and research required to create accurate, life-saving diagnostic tools for screening, early detection and minimally-invasive treatment of prostate cancer. The PRIME Act is critical for transforming patient care, saving lives and improving quality of life in millions of American men.

The PRIME Act is critically needed because it authorizes funding over the next five years for the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the development and evaluation of improved in vitro (blood and urinary) testing for mass screening, and prostate cancer imaging technologies for improved early detection and minimally-invasive treatment. We believe the PRIME Act will replicate for prostate care what the U.S. Government successfully did in the 1990's to stimulate development of digital breast imaging technologies, which led to life-saving breakthroughs in early detection and minimally-invasive lumpectomy of breast cancer. The PRIME Act proposes a total of \$650 million over 5 years, which represents only a small fraction of the health care costs that will be wasted over that period of time due to the lack of accurate diagnostic tools causing wide-spread unnecessary biopsies and unnecessary treatment. Indeed, this effort will more than pay for itself, since accurate diagnosis of prostate cancer could save billions of dollars in health care costs through elimination of unnecessary biopsies and surgeries.

We are grateful that you have recognized prostate cancer as a major public health issue and accurate diagnostic tools, including imaging technologies as a solution. As you know, this dreadful disease strikes one in six men, with African-American men having a 60% higher incidence and 250% higher mortality rates than other ethnic groups. Currently, men do not have prostate imaging technologies comparable to life-saving mammography. While the most common available methods of detecting prostate cancer (PSA blood test and physical exams) made it possible to detect prostate cancer in earlier stages, recent large-scale National Cancer Institute funded clinical trials questioned their value in saving lives and demonstrated their harm due to overdiagnosis and overtreatment.

Further research for the advancement of diagnostic tools for prostate cancer is of vital importance to men around the world and we stand ready to assist you in seeking Congressional approval of the PRIME Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Renee L. Cruea".

Renee Cruea, M.P.A.
Executive Director
Academy of Radiology Research

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Office of the President

Michael G. Herman, PhD
Professor and Chair, Medical Physics
Department of Radiation Oncology
Mayo Clinic
200 First St SW
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September 8, 2010

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
2235 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Boxer and Congressman Cummings:

On behalf of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine¹ (AAPM) thank you for your leadership in introducing the *Prostate Research, Imaging, and Men's Education Act* (PRIME Act S. 756/H.R. 4756). We are pleased that the PRIME Act proposes increased government investment in education and research required to create accurate, life-saving diagnostic tools for screening, early detection and minimally-invasive treatment of prostate cancer. The PRIME Act is critical for transforming patient care, saving lives and improving quality of life in millions of American men.

The PRIME Act is critically needed because it authorizes funding over the next five years for the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the development and evaluation of improved *in vitro* (blood and urinary) testing for mass screening, and prostate cancer imaging technologies for improved early detection and minimally-invasive treatment. We believe the PRIME Act will replicate for prostate care the successful effort by the federal government in the 1990's to stimulate development of digital breast imaging technologies, which led to life-saving breakthroughs in early detection and minimally-invasive lumpectomy of breast cancer. The PRIME Act proposes a total of \$650 million over 5 years, which represents only a small fraction of the health care costs that will be wasted over that period of time due to the lack of accurate diagnostic tools causing wide-spread unnecessary biopsies and unnecessary treatment. Indeed, this effort will more than pay for itself, since accurate diagnosis of prostate cancer could save billions of dollars in health care costs through elimination of unnecessary biopsies and surgeries.

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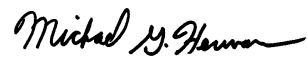
¹ AAPM is the premier organization in medical physics, a broadly based scientific and professional discipline encompassing physics principles and applications in biology and medicine whose mission is to advance the science, education and professional practice of medical physics. AAPM represents over 7,000 medical physicists.

AAPM
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prostate imaging technologies comparable to life-saving mammography. While the most common available methods of detecting prostate cancer (PSA blood test and physical exams) made it possible to detect prostate cancer in earlier stages, recent large-scale National Cancer Institute funded clinical trials questioned their value in saving lives and demonstrated their harm due to over-diagnosis and overtreatment.

Further research for the advancement of diagnostic tools for prostate cancer is of vital importance to men around the world and we stand ready to assist you in seeking Congressional approval of the PRIME Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael G. Herman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael G. Herman, Ph.D., FAAPM, FACMP