

August 6, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20201

To Secretary Kennedy:

The undersigned organizations represent colorectal cancer patients, caregivers, healthcare professionals, advocates and healthcare leaders dedicated to reducing mortality from colorectal cancer. We are writing to express our strong support for preserving the independence, scientific rigor, and nonpartisan mission of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF).

Colorectal cancer is now the primary cause of cancer-related deaths among young men under 50, and the second leading cause of cancer-related death among women under 50.¹ At current rates, it is projected to be the leading cancer killer for all people aged 20-49 by 2030.² Colorectal cancer screening has the potential to save lives and reduce healthcare costs by detecting cancer earlier, and in some cases preventing it all together through the detection and removal of precancerous polyps.

The USPSTF plays a critical role in setting standards that determine access to lifesaving preventive care. Its 2021 recommendation to lower the colorectal cancer screening age to 45 for those at average risk was a milestone based on data, clinical consensus, and growing urgency around early onset colorectal cancer. This decision has already improved access and saved lives. Recently released data shows that among individuals age 45 to 49, colorectal cancer screening increased from 19.7% in 2021 to 33.7% in 2023.³ During this same time period, there was an increase in early-stage diagnoses, meaning more patients were diagnosed early when the cancer is easier to treat.⁴

The USPSTF's most recent colorectal cancer guidance in 2021 recommended a range of stool-based and visual screening methods for average-risk individuals. Its independent, evidence-based review is critical to test adoption and coverage. In 2023, noninvasive

¹ <https://acsjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.3322/caac.21763>

² <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2778204>

³ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2837231>

⁴ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2837232>

methods accounted for over 30% of first-time colorectal cancer screenings, highlighting their growing role in reaching the unscreened.⁵ It is also critical that early detection be paired with timely diagnostic follow-up, most often a colonoscopy after an abnormal non-invasive screening test result. The full continuum of care is what truly prevents late-stage cancer diagnoses and reduces mortality.

Despite all of the progress made in early screening and prevention of colorectal cancer, colorectal cancer remains the second leading cause of cancer death for men and women.⁶ It is critical that we protect and strengthen timely, no cost access to colorectal cancer screening. We urge you to protect the USPSTF's core mission: to provide objective, evidence-based recommendations free from political influence. This approach is essential to maintaining public trust in preventive health policy.

We stand ready to be a resource to you and your team on the data, science and lived experiences of the colorectal cancer community. We look forward to working with you on behalf of patients and families nationwide.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Gastroenterology
American Gastroenterological Association
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons
AMSURG
Big Mike's Bottom Line
California Colorectal Cancer Coalition
CellMax Life
Cheeky Charity
Chronic Care Collaborative
Collaborative Group of the Americas on Inherited Gastrointestinal Cancer
Colon Cancer Alliance for Research and Education for Lynch Syndrome
Colon Cancer Coalition | Get Your Rear in Gear
Colon Cancer Prevention Project

⁵ <https://fightcolorectalcancer.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/FCRCCareReport2024.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/annual-cancer-facts-and-figures/2025/2025-cancer-facts-and-figures-acf.pdf>

Colon Stars
Colorectal Cancer Alliance
Exact Sciences
Fight Colorectal Cancer
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
Freenome
Geneoscopy
Georgia CORE
GH Foundation
GI Cancers Alliance
Gloria Borges WunderGlo Foundation
Guardant Health
Hitting Cancer Below the Belt
Man Up to Cancer
Nevada Cancer Coalition
PALTOWN Development Foundation/COLON TOWN
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Raymond Foundation