



Theresa Morrow
President
Women Against Prostate Cancer
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Suite 301
Washington, DC

JAN 23 2012

Dear Ms. Morrow:

Thank you for your letters to Secretary Sebelius and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force regarding the Task Force's draft recommendation on prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing for prostate cancer screening. I appreciate your taking the time to share your concerns about the evidence base used to support the recommendation, especially for men at increased risk for prostate cancer.

As you are aware, this Task Force is an independent panel of non-federal, volunteer experts, most of whom are practicing clinicians whose focus and expertise are screening and prevention. The Task Force develops evidence-based recommendations on clinical preventive services to inform America's primary care professionals and the patients and families that they serve. The recommendations provide valuable guidance to the health care community and the American people.

The Task Force recognizes that each of its recommendations may impact individual patients, primary care clinicians and clinical practice overall. As such, the Task Force undertakes a rigorous process for gathering and reviewing evidence, developing recommendations, and engaging experts and stakeholders in the review of its work.

I recognize your concern that the Task Force may lack sufficient scientific evidence on the effects of PSA testing on African American men and other high risk groups. I am pleased that the Task Force has increased the transparency of its work and is now soliciting public comment on all of its draft recommendations. I have urged the Task Force, as it finalizes its recommendation, to explain the evidence underpinning the applicability of their recommendations to men at higher risk of prostate cancer, such as African American men. Again, I would like to thank you for participating in this process and submitting your concerns to the Task Force.

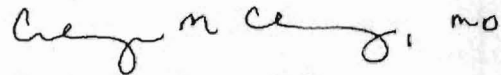
I believe that the men and families of our nation deserve better and more effective screening tests and treatments for prostate cancer. I am pleased that the National Cancer Institute is working to improve the prevention, accurate diagnosis and classification of prostate cancer. It is my hope that when the medical evidence on screening for prostate cancer is reviewed in the future, there will be strong evidence supporting new tests and safer treatments.

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Again, thank you for sharing your concerns about the recommendations related to prostate cancer screening. I appreciate the important work you have done and continue to do to improve the health of American men and their families.

I have sent an identical response to the other signers of your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn M. Clancy, M.D." The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored paper.

Carolyn M. Clancy, M.D.
Director